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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-127 *1 July 1996*

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Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Chairs Executive Committee, Cabinet Meeting

JN2906111496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat last night chaired a five-hour joint meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the Council of Ministers. The president briefed the conferees on the outcome of his meeting in Cairo with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. The president underlined the need for the Israeli Government to implement the agreements signed by the two parties under international auspices. He also stressed the need to curb settlement activities and settlers and to stop road building and land confiscation.

His excellency also stressed the need for the U.S. sponsor's intervention to expedite redeployment in Hebron. He said Israel's delay in implementing the agreement and the settlement onslaught will create an atmosphere of constant tension and crisis among the inhabitants of the city and nearby villages.

On the issue of Palestinian relations with the EU, the conferees decided to set up a team, to be headed by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planing and international cooperation, and comprising representatives from the Ministries of Trade and Economy, Industry, and Agriculture; businessmen; and representatives from the Farmers Union to complete the negotiations before the end of this year and sign the Palestinian-European partnership agreement.

The conferees at the joint meeting voiced their surprise over the Israeli Government's decision to prevent the entry of Saudi Arabia's donation of sheep slaughtered during the pilgrimage season to the National Authority for distribution to the poor. The conferees agreed that this Israeli decision is a flagrant infringement on religious feelings, especially since it has been the practice for years to allow the entry of such donations to the Palestinian territory. The Council of Ministers charged the civil affairs minister to ask the Israelis to allow the entry of the meat as quickly as possible.

The conferees also discussed the problems resulting from the debts owed by municipalities, institutions, and factories because of the failure to pay electricity bills. The conferees asked the Energy Authority, the Local Government Ministry, the municipalities, and local councils to tackle the problem and to quickly collect the bills. They also asked the Local Government Ministry to establish a temporary committee to run the municipalities and villages whose councils do not function regularly and to appoint a judge in every municipality. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Sha'th Views 'Arafat Meeting With Netanyahu Adviser

TA3006121496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0930 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority, by Hasan Abu-Zayid; from "With the Midday Events" feature; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-Zayid] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority [PA], has said he hopes that the meeting of Dr. Gold, Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser, with PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will be a prelude to important meetings between the two sides with the aim of proceeding in the peace process.

[Sha'th] The meeting can be considered a prelude to the important relationship that must, eventually, turn into a face-to-face meeting between Netanyahu and 'Arafat so that we can resume the talks in the peace process. Hence, this was a message relayed to and received by President 'Arafat. It indicates a return to the negotiations. I believe we are waiting for a practical step so that this will be transformed into reality.

[Abu-Zayid] Dr. Sha'th, how do you envision the upcoming stage of talks between Israel and the Palestinians in light of recent developments?

[Sha'th] The talks between the Palestinian National Authority, the PLO, and the Israeli Government are extremely important. I believe that these talks must continue, because the whole peace process requires a framework of negotiations in order to implement what has been agreed upon and in order to proceed in the final solution talks, which began symbolically on 6 May. These talks should continue regardless of which party or coalition rules in Israel. The talks should resume. Only very limited issues remain in the talks, but we have to return to the full negotiating framework. There is no alternative.

These negotiations, which are bound by the bases that we adopted and were signed by the Israeli Government, the PA, and the PLO in Oslo, Cairo, Taba, Washington, and elsewhere, should be accompanied by a real commitment by both sides to implement the concluded agreements. There is no doubt we have many fears stemming from statements uttered during or after the Israeli elections, but we ultimately believe that what governs this relationship is the interests of the two parties in the peace process, the agreements signed between them, and the international testimony that was underscored yesterday at the meeting of the seven great powers, which

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clearly stated that land for peace and the signed agreements are the basis accepted by the world for the continuation of these talks.

Palestinian Affairs: PA's al-Husayni Discusses Israeli Government Positions

NC2806172796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Athens, 28 Jun (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, Palestinian Authority [PA] minister and official in charge of the Jerusalem file, has noted Egypt's crucial role in the peace process and the Middle East in general. He stressed the significance and political, geographical, and cultural status of Egypt that enables it to play a pioneering role, which in turn is its natural and fateful position.

Al-Husayni said the Arab summit in Cairo recently highlighted the vital Arab role and offered proof of the nation's awakening and ability to face challenges. He added that the summit sent a very clear message to Israel in response to its insistence on disregarding the Arab existence and the existing agreements.

In a statement to MENA's correspondent in Athens, where he was attending the funeral of former Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, al-Husayni emphasized that the PA and the Arab peoples are determined to take the road to peace but on the condition that it will be real, comprehensive, and able to bring security and peace to all the countries of the region.

Asked about the policies of the new right-wing Israeli Government headed by Binyamin Netanyahu, Faysal al-Husayni said an assessment of Netanyahu's government will come in light of its practices and actions, not in light of its statements and utterances.

Concerning Israel's security and the Netanyahu government's attempts to use it as a pretext to justify its intentions to hurt the peace process, the Palestinian official clarified that Israel must first prove it is committed to peace and then demand security, because there is no security without peace and vice versa. He added that the PA strives for and adheres to a just and comprehensive peace while demanding that the Palestinian people be given the right to self-determination and to establish their own state in addition to an Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967, as specified in the relevant UN resolutions.

The Palestinian official expressed the PA's readiness to negotiate the final status of Jerusalem while stressing that the PA flatly refuses to negotiate the status of East Jerusalem, pointing to the need for open interaction between East and West Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni said any attempt to build new settlements, particularly in the Jerusalem area, will be a direct blow to the peace process and nobody will remain silent about it. He added that if the peace process is destroyed in Jerusalem, it will be destroyed in Palestine and the rest of the region, stressing that the PA will not allow the sacrifice of Jerusalem for the sake of any political agreement. He emphasized that Jerusalem is the Palestinian state's capital and is the first of the two Qiblas and the third holy mosque in addition to being the Christian spiritual capital. These are facts nobody can ignore. He went on to describe Jerusalem as a basic and crucial issue that can either promote the peace or form a regional black hole that will swallow up the peace process.

On the U.S. role in the peace process al-Husayni said that when the United States goes out of its way to support Israel while placing Arab interests at a disadvantage, this behavior will ultimately legitimize Israel's actions and we will end up with Arab public opinion moving in an undesirable direction.

Al-Husayni elaborated: If we are facing an Israeli-American policy that aims at limiting our ability to influence the future of our people, then what right do we have to ask our people to commit themselves, with us, to the peace process?

Regarding recent reports about the PA not objecting to Hamas operations against Israel while Israel insists on its hardline stances, al-Husayni remarked that the PA will not impose discipline on the Palestinian people and will not attempt to do so by force. He added: We will not force discipline on the Palestinian people through gunfire and by killing people in the streets; discipline will come through persuasion and our people's acceptance of peace.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni on Alleged Israeli Stand on Orient House

JN3006102096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0910 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli media say that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu issued special instructions to the Israeli police and Shabak elements to prevent any so-called illegal activity by Palestinian bodies in occupied Jerusalem. According to these sources, Netanyahu's instructions include preventing any activities inside Orient House.

During its weekly meeting the day before yesterday, the Israeli cabinet discussed a proposal asking any foreign minister visiting Israel not to visit Orient House. Earlier, the EU approved the EU foreign ministers' visits to Orient House.

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Commenting on this subject, we have on the line Faysal al-Husayni, PLO Executive Committee member.

[Announcer] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, what is your reaction to this Israeli measure?

[Al-Husayni] In fact the Israeli news we have received...[pauses] my phone was disturbed a short while ago and I was in fact unable to hear you. Therefore, I do not know the Israeli measures. If they intend to enforce the Israeli decision to prevent government activities at Orient House, then we would like to say that the Orient House activities are related to the Palestinian team to the peace conference and not to government activities. If there are any Israeli political changes toward the Palestinian establishments in Jerusalem and attempts to close down or hamper the work of these establishments, this means Israel is clearly deviating from the peace process. Jerusalem is the essence of the peace process. It is the core of the Palestinian problem. Therefore, any negative move in this direction actually means an end to the peace process. There is no peace without Jerusalem.

[Announcer] Israeli internal security minister Avigdor Qahalani says Netanyahu's government will not be committed to the document signed by the former Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres with the Norwegian foreign minister.

[Al-Husayni] That is what I mean when I say that such a measure contravenes all the principles of the political process. Again I say that the Palestinian bodies are the infrastructure of the Palestinian people here. Any harm to them will harm the Palestinian people and the peace process.

[Announcer] Is the new move different from what occurred during the Peres government?

[Al-Husayni] So far it seems that they want to begin a new policy. However, as I told you, I have not received official statements issued by the Israeli Government. What I heard from the Israeli Defense Forces Radio differs from what the television and other sources said. If this is a fact, then, as I told you, Israel intends to destroy the peace process. If the situation is different, and we hope it is, then we must wait a few hours to ascertain the facts.

[Announcer] You have not received official intimations on this issue?

[Al-Husayni] We have not received any official intimations. Therefore, let us wait for a few hours until we receive official documents, and then Orient House will issue an official response.

[Announcer] Former Minister Yosi Beilin warned the Netayahu government against dissociating itself from previous commitments concerning Orient House.

[Al-Husayni] Yes, this is obvious. The Israeli Government, in accordance with international agreements, cannot backtrack on these commitments. Backtracking on these commitments means backtracking on the entire political process.

[Announcer] Thank you, Faysal al-Husayni.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Probes U.S. Stand After Christopher Visit

JN2906102096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0420 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Telephone interview with Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of Local Government in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Fathi al-Barqawi in the studio, from the "A New Day" feature; place not given—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Barqawi] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, good morning.

['Urayqat] Good morning.

[Al-Barqawi] Are there new developments concerning the negotiations following the Cairo summit and the PLO Executive Committee meeting three days ago?

['Urayqat] The truth is that the Arab summit sent a clear and explicit message; the Arabs are committed to peace as an Arab strategy, a peace within the confines of the bases on which the peace process was founded, chiefly the Israeli withdrawal from all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

[Al-Barqawi] It seems that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu wants to maintain the status quo.

['Urayqat] I believe Netanyahu will discover that his attempts to set the peace process backward...[pauses] Not only Netanyahu's statements, but also his intentions do not augur well. He realizes very well that peace and settlements are opposite numbers. When he says Israel has a right to establish settlements, this means he undermines the principles on which the peace process was launched.

Christopher came to the region. His excellency the president met with him in Cairo. I was with the president. However, it seems Christopher's visit has utterly failed because — even at the news conference Christopher held with Netanyahu — Christopher did not react when Netanyahu said he wants peace without preconditions. Christopher did not react when Netanyahu said peace does not mean Israel will give up its occupation of Jerusalem, settlements will continue, and Israel will not

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withdraw from the Golan. It could be premature to pass judgment. But one can say the peace process faces a real crisis.

[Al-Barqawi] Does it seem that the United States is no longer committed to the land-for-peace principle?

[Al-Barqawi] It is too early to pass judgment. As I said, there are many strange things taking place, and the peace process now faces a real crisis. The United States has never been an unbiased party or mediator. The United States is known for its total bias for Israel. However, the United States, since 1967, has stressed the land-for-peace principle, and that settlements are an obstacle to peace and are illegal. However, Christopher did not announce these stands when he came to the region. On sensitive issues, he was content to say that these are final-status issues.

[Al-Barqawi] Do you believe the United States still believes Israel is a Middle East state or, as you yourself said a few days ago, that Israel is a state above the Middle East, as it itself believes?

['Urayqat] It is not important whether Israel is in or above the Middle East. I believe that Israel either pursues the peace process—the Arabs have reaffirmed in the Cairo summit they are determinerd to pursue the peace process—or faces alone the responsibility of the collapse of this process and all the consequences resulting from this. On the Palestinian side, His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat announced more than once that we are strategically committed to the peace process. However, Netanyahu and other Israeli officials should understand that the Palestinian people are here to stay, the Palestinian people have overcome 87 schemes this century which all sought to obliterate them as a people. Denying facts does not make them disappear. If Netanyahu and the Israeli Government wish to complete the peace process in line with the set terms of reference, in line with international legitimacy resolutions, then they are welcome. But if Netanyahu wishes to destroy the peace process, he alone will be blamed for this, not only on the Palestinian-Israeli level but on all levels.

It is true that there is an Israeli school among the Israeli rightwing movement that claims the Arabs have no options, they are weak, and they cannot resort to the military option. This could be true at this stage, in particular. But the peace process is not an Arab or Palestinian interest. It is also an Israeli interest too. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs: Fatah Movement Demands Israel Continue Peace Process

JN3006203496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Fatah Youths Movement said that the peace process is the Palestinian people's strategic option and the essence of national struggle toward establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

In a statement issued today, the movement says any Israeli attempt to procrastinate in implementing the agreements signed with the PLO or failure of the new Israeli Government to continue the peace process will be met with a firm response.

The Fatah Youths Movement warns the new Israeli Government under Binyamin Netanyahu against failure to withdraw from Hebron and release prisoners. The movement demanded an immediate return to the table of negotiations with the PLO's legitimate leadership to resume the final status negotiations. The movement urged the PLO factions to reinforce national unity until an independent Palestinian state is established with Jerusalem as its capital, and under the leadership of President Yasir 'Arafat.

Palestinian Affairs: PFLP Reportedly Suspends PLO Membership

JN0107115296 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1110 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] today announced it has suspended its membership in the PLO institutions because of what it termed the destructive policy adopted by the Palestinian leadership. The Damascus-based PFLP said in its statement: It is time to stop such a policy and open the doors for comprehensive national dialogue. The PFLP said that the Oslo accords between Israel and the PLO, as well as the subsequent concessions, have largely undermined the Palestinian people's struggle. The PFLP called for dialogue based on the fact that the accords with Israel are rejected and that these accords have not produced a solution that will end occupation and achieve freedom and independence.

Palestinian Affairs: Editorial Criticizes U.S. Support for Netanyahu

MM2806154396 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 28 Jun 96 p 15

[Editorial: "United States and Supporting Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is difficult for us to know whom U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is

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trying to deceive when he continues to reiterate in his statements that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is committed to working to bring about peace and knows peace is necessary for the region. If he wants to deceive the Arabs, we assure the U.S. secretary his goods are adulterated and unacceptable, and he must as of now look for something else.

How can Christopher himself believe Netanyahu is committed to peace, when he is actually torpedoing all its foundations and setting new criteria that conflict completely with the peace process sponsored by his country, such as security for peace and the Jewish people's right to settle anywhere in the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan?!

The painful thing is that when Netanyahu spoke at his joint news conference with Christopher, during the latter's visit to occupied Jerusalem, about his expansionist and settlement schemes, he encountered support and backing. We heard the U.S. secretary of state stress — without any shame or embarrassment, and in Cairo — the need to introduce amendments to the land-for-peace formula.

Christopher should have intervened to bring an end to the new Israeli prime minister's arrogance, and to explain the dangers of his policies to U.S. interests in the region and the stability of the world as a whole, but he did not. In fact, he encouraged Netanyahu and openly described his policies as positive.

Such blatant U.S. policies and bias toward aggression actually repudiate Washington's role as an honest broker between the conflicting parties in the Middle East and are bound to escalate terrorism and hostility toward whatever is American. The U.S. Administration would be mistaken if it thought that alliances between Turkey and Israel are capable of remapping the Arab region in accordance with U.S. interests and the steps taken to reinforce them. Experience has proven that a real peace based on justice and equality, not alliances, is capable of giving U.S.-Arab relations the required momentum and developing Western interests in the region.

When the Arabs accepted the land-for-peace formula as a basis for the peace process, it was because they believed that there was a positive change in U.S. policy based on its understanding of Arab grievances and the desire to work to rectify it. But when Christopher says — five years on — that the formula needs to be amended, he is actually returning the region to square one — which entails potential violent actions and tension in the region.

Washington — which has put "terrorism" at the top of its priorities, stressed that it will work to combat terrorism, and is trying to rally Western leaders behind it in this context — is the real supporter of terrorism and the elements adopting it as a means to express their causes, because of the policies it is pursuing to humiliate at least more than 300 million Arabs.

Terrorism cannot be confronted by sending advanced electronic equipment and laser-guided missiles, but, rather by looking for its roots and causes and by trying to find political solutions to it. Regrettably, the U.S. Administration is making the same mistakes committed by Israel and previous administrations when it deals with this serious issue through security means only.

Supporting Netanyahu's policies on settlement and expansion is the highest degree of terrorism. A superpower such as the United States should not side with aggression, confiscation of land, and denying an Arab people their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state.

We believe the Arab region is approaching a bloody stage of violence, and the U.S. Administration is responsible for every drop of Arab, U.S., or Jewish blood shed in it. Because it favored the option of Israeli extremism over the option of Arab moderation and has undermined a promising peace process because of narrow-minded electoral considerations.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Netanyahu, Palestinians on 'Arafat-Gold Meeting

TA2806121896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At this morning's cabinet meeting there was a sharp clash between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Minister Beni Begin who sharply criticized last night's meeting between prime minister's adviser Dore Gold and Yasir 'Arafat. Netanyahu replied that the government's basic guidelines include a clause on conducting a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA] and that Minister Begin should have thought of that before joining the government. Nevertheless, the prime minister stressed that the main message conveyed to the Palestinians is that they have to fight an ongoing and uncompromising war against terrorism. Cabinet Secretary Dani Nave clarified after the cabinet meeting that the contacts with the PA will continue at various levels.

Netanyahu's envoy Dore Gold handed 'Arafat a message from the prime minister. the PLO leader told a group of Meretz young activists who met with him in

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Gaza this morning. 'Arafat refused to go into the contents of the message.

Palestinian sources told our correspondent Dani Zaqen that the Gold-'Arafat meeting was short and that they discussed the outcome of Netanyahu's talks with Secretary Christopher, among other things. 'Arafat told Gold that the PA is fighting terrorism to the best of its ability and is waiting for Israel to fulfill its promise to withdraw from Hebron.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 28 June adds that the response of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to the Gold-'Arafat meeting was "moderate" and that it said "it was expected. Peace Now welcomed the meeting, while the PA is now awaiting a Netanyahu-'Arafat meeting."]

Arab-Israeli Talks: 'Arafat's Adviser Comments on Netanyahu's Message

NC2906095896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0845 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Gaza, 29 Jun (MENA)—Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to and spokesman of Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Palestinians are now waiting to see the real intentions and inclinations of the new Israeli Government.

He said these inclinations are expected to become clear next month, after the meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington on 9 July, and also after Netanyahu's visits to both Cairo and Amman.

Speaking to a MENA correspondent, Abu-Rudaynah said the message President 'Arafat received from Netanyahu through his political adviser Dore Gold on Thursday [27 June] contained nothing new. It only marked the beginning of contacts between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government; it cannot be viewed as a resumption of negotiations, he said.

Abu-Rudaynah said the Palestinians are now in a stronger position, following the recent Arab summit in Cairo. The Palestinians are armed with a strong Arab position and with international legitimacy, he added.

He said 'Arafat will tour more West Bank cities in the next few days. He will attend the sessions of the Palestinian Legislative Council in Ramallah on Wednesday and will visit Tulkarm and Qalqilyah, where the cabinet session will be held.

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Algeria

Algeria: Elite Forces Launch 'Large-Scale Operation' Against Activists

LD3006143096 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] LA TRIBUNE newspaper reported in Algiers today that Algerian elite forces, backed by helicopters, launched a large-scale operation in the past few days against Islamic activists in Takout in Kabylie. Firing with rockets and automatic weapons could be heard.

Algeria: Leading Islamic Figure 'Close' to FIS Shot in Mosque

LD3006164396 Paris France-2 Teletext in French 1608 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The leading Muslim figure in Algeria, Cheikh Ahmed Sahnoun, 89, close to the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], was seriously injured when he was shot in the head in Algiers on Sunday [30 June].

According to authorities, the imam, who is one of the most famous figures of Islam in Algeria, is not in a critical condition. He was attacked in his mosque.

The Algerian armed forces, supported by helicopters, have been involved since Thursday in a significant operation in Takout, Kabylie, against Islamist groups.

Algeria: Interior Minister Condemns Shooting of Imam

LD3006202396 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Onto a terrorism item. Imam Ahmed Sahnoun was attacked this morning at around 0400 hours. Ahmed Sahnoun, the imam of el-Arkam Mosque [in Algiers], was leading the dawn prayers inside the mosque in his district, La Concorde, in Bir Mourad Rais, when two terrorists burst in. He was shot in the head twice. He was rescued by police officers. He was then taken to the military hospital at Ain-Nadja. He is no longer in a critical condition.

On behalf of the government, Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour has condemned the attack, which shows, I quote, the extent of the barbarism that drives the terrorists who attack the Algerian nation without making any exceptions. Mr. Benmansour added that those behind this crime will be hunted and punished with the full force of the law.

Algeria: FIS Condemns Attack Against Shaykh Ahmed Sahnoun

BR0107091396 Paris AFP in French 0815 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 1 Jul (AFP) — The foreign executive delegation of the Islamic Salvation Front (former FIS) has condemned the attack against 89-year-old Algerian Islamic Patriarch Shaykh Ahmed Sahnoun in Algiers on Sunday [30 June].

"The FIS strongly denounces and condemns this terrorist and cowardly action which shows the meanness of those who committed it," according to a communique from the organization which was transmitted to AFP on Monday.

Shaykh Sahoun was shot at and injured by two gunmen when leaving the El Arkam Mosque (southwest district of Algiers).

Algeria: IMF Offers Loans Worth $499.5 Million

LD2806202196 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the framework of subsidizing new prices for the importation of grain, the IMF's board of governors offered Algeria the day before yesterday [26 June] a loan worth 175 million of the Special Drawing Rights [SDR], i.e. equivalent to $253 million.

It also offered Algeria a new loan of SDR170 million, i.e. equivalent to $246.5, for the following six months. This loans falls within the framework of implementing the restructuring, which started more than six months ago.

Algeria: Rescheduling Agreement Signed With Bank Creditors

MS2806115796 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 28 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Roula Khalaf: "Algeria Signs Deal With Bank Creditors"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London — Algeria and the London Club of bank creditors yesterday signed the 3.2bn pound rescheduling agreement reached last May with the banks' steering committee.

The committee at the time agreed to extend debt maturing between March 1994 and December 1997 over a period that stretches from twelve and a half years to 16 years, allowing for a grace period of six and a half years, but had to seek approval of all debt holders before signing with Algiers.

The signing in London will allow Algerian debt to trade more freely on the secondary market. The single biggest

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tranche of the debt reached a low point of less than 30 cents to the dollar in February 1995 but has since climbed back up to nearly 60 cents to the dollar.

Finalisation of the London Club agreement comes at a time when French aid to Algeria is set to be scaled back. According to French foreign ministry officials, direct treasury assistance, which accounts for FFlbn ($193m) of the total FF6bn in yearly aid, will be cut this year. The size of the reduction has yet to be determined, but officials said it would not reach 50 per cent, as had been reported in the French press. Whether the cuts affect the other FF5bn which is in the form of credit guarantees for the purchase of French products, has yet to be decided and is the subject of discussions with Algerian officials.

Although the cuts will be seen as a response to persistent calls for French aid to be used as leverage on the Algerian government caught in a four-year crisis pitting Islamic militants against security forces, French officials said yesterday the cuts were due to financial constraints and fall within the general reduction in foreign aid.

Algeria can continue to count on help from the International Monetary Fund [IMF], however. In its second review of a $1.8bn credit facility approved last May, the IMF board on Tuesday was satisfied with the country's economic performance and approved continued drawing of funds. Algeria has met the performance targets set by the Fund, after having failed on two counts in the first review last November. To compensate Algeria for the increase in cereal prices, the IMF also agreed to a $250m financing facility.

IMF officials said Algeria was in line for a small budget surplus in 1996, as projected. The budget deficit fell to 1.4 per cent of gross domestic product in 1995 from 4.4 per cent the previous year.

Foreign exchange reserves, which fell short of IMF set targets in November, had climbed to $2.5bn by the end of May, pushed by higher oil prices.

Egypt

Egypt: Mubarak Sends 'Important' Messages to Clinton, Yeltsin

NC2906053996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0503 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports today that, as part of a plan for quick action adopted by President Mubarak and in implementation of the recent Arab summit resolutions, Egypt has sent important messages to U.S. and Russian Presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, in their capacity as co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process.

The paper says that the messages explained the Cairo summit's final communique, resolutions, and the Arab leaders' agreement on the peace arrangements in the region, relations among its countries, and the need to adhere to the international resolutions and agreements already concluded between Israel and the Arab parties.

The paper adds that Egypt has sent similar messages to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali, the Italian president in his capacity as the current European Union [EU] president, and the Irish president, who will take over the EU presidency on 1 July.

The paper notes that Egypt had already sent similar messages to the G-7 summit in Lyons, France, in addition to OAU Secretary General Salem Ahamd Salem and a number of leaders of countries interested in the Middle East peace issue. The messages, the paper adds, were sent in implementation of the Arab summit resolutions that entrusted President Mubarak, the summit's chairman, to hold the necessary contacts and consultations and brief world leaders on the Cairo summit outcome.

Egypt: Musa Denies Egyptian-U.S. Relations 'Tense'

NC2906153896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1520 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied that Egyptian-U.S. relations are tense. In answer to queries by journalists, Musa said, "I cannot say that Egyptian-U.S. relations are tense or lukewarm. However, there are some points of differences in the evaluation of certain matters pertaining to the peace process and other topics. This is a natural phenomenon in international relations." He indicated that Egypt's stance is known and based on clear estimates.

Musa explained that it is not necessary for Egypt, the United States, and other countries to view a certain topic from the same angle. He reaffirmed that Egyptian-U.S. relations are not lukewarm.

Egypt: Musa Comments on Korean Missiles, Summit, Israeli Stance

NC3006133696 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stressed Egypt's strong condemnation and denunciation of the recent bombing in Dhahran in Saudi Arabia. He said that acts of violence cannot be approved and that they are to be condemned by all means. In a statement to the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH published today, Musa said that this incident is a result of

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the great tension prevailing in the region and denotes that a serious situation and possibilities for eruptions of violence exist. He stressed that proceeding toward peace quickly, soundly, and directly will ease this tension and will make all countries of the region feel that peace is coming, a fair and balanced peace and not one pitting one party against another.

Discussing reports by U.S. and Israeli media that Egypt has purchased weapons and Scud missiles from North Korea despite the U.S. ban on it, Musa said: If any party wants to talk about arms in this region, we are ready. However, this topic must be dealt with as a whole and everything must be examined, from the Israeli nuclear program to the missile systems and the antimissile systems of all the countries of the region. This would mean opening a very serious door. He noted that no party can talk to us about short- or medium-range missiles when Israel, a neighboring country, possesses a complete missile system with a range capable of reaching the Arab Maghreb. He pointed out that ultimately he does not want this issue to be looked into as a non-positive development in relations between Egypt and Israel.

Musa said that President Husni Mubarak's upcoming visit to the United States will be basically aimed at backing the peace process and bilateral ties between Egypt and the United States.

On the recent Arab summit in Cairo, Musa said that the summit enabled the Arab countries to confront challenges with sober, solemn, and practical stands, not just slogans. He said we are for peace but we sent a warning and a clear message to Israel that it is wrong if it thinks the Arabs are finished or that they will take steps toward Israel unless it takes steps toward a comprehensive peace. He stressed that Arab coordination will continue and develop after the summit. He noted that meetings will be held to follow up on the Arab resolutions by activating the Arab economic structures. He said that the date of the forthcoming Arab summit will be set after consultations between President Mubarak and his brother Arab presidents and kings.

Discussing the European role in the peace process, Musa stressed that Europe's role in the peace process is very important, as is the PRC's. He noted that Russia also plays an influential role, being one of the cosponsors of the peace process.

Egypt: Foreign Minister Musa Comments on Ties With Israel, Iraq

NC0107103096 Cairo MENA in English 0914 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Jul (MENA)—Cairo press today quoted Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa as welcoming the final communique adopted by the leaders of the seven industrialized countries at the end of their meeting in Lyons, France. [passage omitted]

Musa, speaking of the Arab summit, said the Arabs directed a clear message saying that Israel would be wrong in thinking that the Arabs are finished.

The foreign minister asserted that Arab coordination will be maintained after the summit, and will develop, adding that meetings will be held to follow up the implementation of the summit's resolution concerning reinvigorating Arab economic structures.

Musa spoke of the issue of Iraq and said that some Arab countries, especially Iraq's neighbors still have bitter feelings about Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

It was found to be better to put off the issue of Iraq for a while in order to avoid any trouble that could have led to the delay or cancellation of the summit, he was quoted as saying.

Speaking about Egyptian-Israeli relations, Musa was quoted by the press as saying Egypt is an Arab country that is committed to a peace agreement with Israel. But, it must be understood that Egypt's diplomacy was not created for the purpose of serving Israel. The fact is that Egypt wants to serve positive Arab-Israeli relations that are based on a balanced and just peace, he added.

It would be a mistake to believe that Egypt's peace agreement with Israel prevents it from criticizing Israel, Musa was quoted as adding.

The minister said that Israel's choosing to consider Egypt's criticism of some of its policies as a hostile action on the part of Egypt is Israel's own affair.

The relationship between Egypt and Israel must be balanced and based on the principle of comprehensive peace, the foreign minister said.

Egypt is a country that has its weight in the region, he said. It deems itself bigger than to seek to integrate itself with Israel, he added.

Egypt's raising for discussion the issue of the Israeli nuclear program and Israel's having superiority over all countries in the region, is only an endeavor to bring all pending matters to the negotiating table and to avoid any future complications, he said.

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If the Israelis want to ask the Egyptian diplomacy to open the nuclear file through attacking me, they then, can do what they wish, Musa further said. These attacks would not change Egypt's stance, he was quoted as saying.

Egypt: Lebanese TV Interviews Musa on Israeli Stand on Peace Process

NC2906144396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 29 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories stems from the extent the frustration of the Palestinian people has reached. He stressed that the Oslo Agreement is a part of the commitments agreed upon between the Palestinian Authority and Israel. If these commitments are discarded or frozen, this means the Palestinian-Israeli peace process will also be frozen.

In a short interview aired on the private Lebanese television station, NTV [New Television], last night, Musa explained that southern Lebanon will continue to be an arena of tension where anything can happen after negotiations on the Lebanese-Israeli track stumble and as long as the security monitoring committee set up by the April Understanding on a cease-fire is not formed.

He expressed doubts over the possibility of quickly forming this committee in light of the new Israeli stand under Binyamin Netanyahu's government. He said there are many negative factors facing the Understanding between Lebanon and Israel. However, this agreement continues to be valid.

'Amr Musa affirmed that the Qana massacre committed by Israel in southern Lebanon, which led to the deaths of over 100 women, children, and old people, flagrantly violated the Sharm al-Shaykh summit resolutions, a summit that was held to confront terrorism and establish peace in the region.

He said that we are all opposed to terrorism and violence in the region, but the presence of occupation forces on Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian territory frustrates the citizens and pushes them to commit acts of violence.

In his interview with Lebanese television—which he gave after the Arab summit conference in Cairo concluded—Musa added that Israel, which claims it has no designs on Lebanese territory, should withdraw from that territory now that it has become clear that the presence of its occupying forces is one of the major reasons for violence and tension.

Musa affirmed that the Lebanese state is responsible for keeping peace on Lebanese territory, not Israel. As long as this occupation continues, the tension will continue.

He said Israel must respect the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and should withdraw from its territory before talking about resistance and terrorism in the region.

He pointed out that the Cairo summit opened the door for expanded Arab action to respond to steps Israel takes to respond positively to the Arab countries and to meet its commitments under the peace process in the region.

He also pointed out that at the Cairo summit the Arab leaders asked President Husni Mubarak to take the lead in the international, regional, and diplomatic contacts and moves to confront any security violations and attempts to escalate tension in the region, within the framework of agreements and coordination among the Arab capitals.

Musa said that returning to the negotiating table and confirming the principles that have been agreed upon will calm the atmosphere.

He said that the Israeli claim that resuming negotiations on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks should not have any preconditions attached to it has evil intentions because it brings us back to square one. Such Israeli requirements amount to a negation of the peace process.

Musa said that it is no longer in Israel's power to define the future of peace in the region any way it wishes and to push the peace process forward or backwards as it wants.

He affirmed that there are Arab partners of Israel, as there are other Arab sides, and that they have the same rights. He pointed out that the stands of Netanyahu's government cannot serve the peace process.

Musa clarified that the final word in the peace process has not been said yet. He pointed out that understanding the real intentions behind the Israeli statements will not become clear until the end of the contacts in the next few weeks within the framework of Christopher's visit to the region, Netanyahu's visit to Cairo and Washington, and President Mubarak's visit to Washington.

Concluding his interview, Musa called on Israel to review the latest cards it has played in the Middle East peace process in order to confirm its commitment to implementing the Oslo Agreement, withdrawing from all the Arab territories including the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and resolving the Jerusalem problem.

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Egypt: Musa Notes G-7 Summit's Failure To Mention Palestinian State

NC3006210596 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt welcomed the statement issued by the summit of the leaders of the seven major industrial countries that ended in Lyons, France today.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa declared today that the summit used the land-for-peace principle as a point of reference and this is a reaffirmation of the foundations on which the peace process, on the various negotiating tracks, has rested since its beginning. Musa described the Lyons statement as positive and necessary.

Asked if the statement clearly proclaimed its backing for the Palestinian Authority in the economic sphere, Musa said that the statement made clear that there is a collective wish to boost Palestinian economic capabilities. He added that it also adhered to the land-for-peace principle, which applies both to the Palestinian negotiating track and to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks.

In answer to a question about the Lyons summit's failure to refer to a Palestinian state, the Palestinian right to self-determination, the settlements issue, or the status of Jerusalem, 'Amr Musa remarked: The establishment of a Palestinian state and self-determination is a self-evident issue and was underlined by the Florence summit and other conferences. We regret the fact that the final statement of the Lyons summit did not mention this matter. However, this does not nullify the fact that the establishment of a Palestinian state is a necessary condition for a comprehensive and just peace.

Egypt: Diplomat Views Mubarak's Paris Visit, EU, G-7 Summits

NC0107074596 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 1 Jul 96

[Telephone interview with Egypt's Ambassador to France 'Ali Mahir, in Paris, by Fayiz al-Miliji, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Al-Miliji] President Mubarak's visit to France follows the Cairo Arab summit, the European Union [EU] summit in Florence, and the summit of the seven major industrialized nations and Russia. What is the connection between all these events and the president's visit to France?

[Mahir] We must view president Husni Mubarak's visit to Paris today in the context of the excellent relations between Egypt and France. Time has proven that Egyptian-French coordination and consultation can lead to positive moves and good results in the international arena.

The second dimension is that the region and the peace process have, because of the political change in Israel, experienced circumstances that nearly threatened the continuation of this process. Therefore, an Egyptian diplomatic move led by President Husni Mubarak is needed now more than ever to face the obstacles and difficulties that could block the peace process. This process aims to achieve a peace involving all the region's nations and based on justice.

Indeed it is evident that President Mubarak's meetings with President Chirac since President Chirac took office have produced a good and effective impact on the international arena and Europe.

So I return to your question and say that the EU summit and the Lyons summit of the developed nations chaired by President Chirac showed that there is an understanding and awareness of the real situation in the Middle East and the Egyptian and Arab stances. This awareness did not come from a vacuum; it came about through intense contacts by Egypt, by President Mubarak. This produced a clear picture of the true situation and of the path we are treading to reach this peace, as well as the impediments blocking this path.

[Al-Miliji] The EU summit sent a clear message to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu asserting Europe's insistence on achieving peace in the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy—Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. The seven major industrial nations' summit emphasized that the principle of land for peace forms the basis for a political settlement in the Middle East. Following these assertions, President Mubarak was (?eager) to meet President Chirac. What are the Arabs' demands from France now in light of the recent positions?

[Mahir] What you just mentioned about the Florence and Lyons summit resolutions is correct but you should read them with the resolution of the Cairo Arab summit chaired by President Mubarak in the background.

The Florence and Lyons summits were influenced by the Arab position and derived much from that position. Support for the peace process and the assertion of the principle of peace for land and Security Council resolutions were all mentioned at the Lyons and Florence summits. Today there is common ground to work together— Egypt and France and President Mubarak and President Chirac—so that we can make progress in the peace process and handle the problems and difficulties [words indistinct].

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We are not asking France to do anything. What is required is a common analysis and examination of the steps we could take through bilateral and collective contacts and a comprehensive diplomatic move to achieve what we want. All these efforts we are making, rather that President Mubarak is making, aim to achieve peace and stability in the region. They are targeted against no one. They are intended for peace and the hope is that we can overcome the obstacles and difficulties. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Palestinian National Council Speaker, Delegation Arrive

LD3006111096 Cairo MENA in English 2227 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, June 29 (MENA) — Speaker of the Palestinian National Council Salim al-Zanun arrived here tonight leading his country's delegation on a visit to Egypt. Zanoun is to meet with Speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly Dr Ahmad Fathi Surur, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr Mustafa Kamal Helmi speaker of the Shura Council along with Arab League Secretary General Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. The visit is aimed at pushing forward bilateral relations and seeking coordination of stances at international forums. The visit, the first of its kind, comes after the Cairo Arab summit held here recently.

Egypt: Palestinian National Council Speaker Meets Musa, Others, Comments

NC3006145496 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian National Council delegation currently visiting Cairo praised the efforts of the Egyptian people and government, led by President Husni Mubarak, to convene the 22d Arab summit. It also hailed President Mubarak's vital and effective role in calling for the summit and closing Arab ranks, noting the success of the summit in unifying Arab ranks to achieve a fair and comprehensive peace in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. This statement was made during a meeting today between the Palestinian National Council delegation, led by Speaker Salim al-Za'nun, and Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

After his meeting with Foreign Minister Musa, al-Za'nun said that they discussed the results of the Cairo Arab summit and its achievements. He expressed the Palestinian people's extreme appreciation of the efforts exerted by Egypt and President Mubarak to bring the Arab countries together to adopt an enlightened and firm policy vis-a-vis the new situation arising in Israel in the wake of the Likud Bloc's election win. He said that the success of the Arab summit generated a general feeling in the international arena of the need to protect the peace process from collapse. He noted that the European summit expressed solidarity with the peace process and the G-7 summit stressed that the economy is linked to peace and that Israel must recognize the Palestinian people's right to determine their future. He expressed hope that Netanyahu will not return the region to a new cycle of violence that may take another 25 years to halt. He said: As Arabs, we must preserve what we achieved at the summit and, as Palestinians, we must achieve the strongest possible Arab solidarity to safeguard the achievements attained in the past two years.

Egypt: Assembly Speaker Receives Palestinian Counterpart, Comments

NC3006140196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At noon today, People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur received Palestinian National Council Speaker Salim al-Za'nun and his accompanying delegation, who arrived in Egypt yesterday on a visit. Al-Za'nun said that this is the first visit by a Palestinian parliamentary delegation. He hailed the role played by Egypt and President Mubarak in supporting the Palestinian people's efforts. He stressed that the success of the Arab summit is considered to be a strong boost for the cause of peace. He stressed adherence to the Oslo Agreement resolutions and the Palestinian people's readiness to proceed on the path of peace and build their state. He said that the Palestinian people are preparing to complete the stages of building their state and enacting a constitution.

Speaker Dr. Surur welcomed the Palestinian parliamentary delegation and stressed the Egyptian people's pride in the legitimate Palestinian Authority. He voiced his hope that a Palestinian state will be established soon. He stressed that the Arab solidarity registered during the Arab summit represents a profound dimension in adherence to the land-for-peace principle. He said that Israeli security cannot be ensured without peace, noting that economic cooperation cannot reach the desired level without real peace. He stressed that the Security Council and the Madrid Conference resolutions, and the Oslo Agreement must be implemented so that peace can be achieved in line with the land-for-peace principle.

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Egypt: Russian Envoy Stops in Cairo on Way From Khartoum

NC2706183996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1657 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 27 Jun (MENA)—Dr. Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian Foreign Ministry under secretary and President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy, and his delegation left Cairo after a stopover of several hours on their way from Khartoum.

Before leaving Cairo, the Russian official said that the Russian delegation witnessed the beginning of operations at the Sudanese oil fields of Fadlaj [place name as received] and the start of work on the pipeline from these fields to Port Sudan. He said this is an important event and Sudan will gradually become an oil-producing country. He added that he had met with several Sudanese officials and discussed numerous bilateral and regional issues with them.

Posuvalyuk said Russia welcomed the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir that was held on the sidelines of the Arab summit in Cairo. He reported that Sudanese officials had told him there will soon be an exchange of visits between Egypt and Sudan in line with the two presidents' agreement to set aside certain sensitive matters. He said the Sudanese officials said relations between the two countries will gradually improve and become stronger.

Posuvalyuk noted that the Arab summit was an important event and that the Arab leaders gave a clear signal to the international community and to all the parties of the peace process that they are committed to this process and its objectives. He said the Arab leaders also succeeded in solving some of their outstanding bilateral problems. He declared: We in Moscow were confident the summit would give a positive signal to the world because after an absence of six years, the Arabs met again in Cairo. Because the Arabs have such leaders, headed by President Husni Mubarak, the world is assured that the summit will have constructive results. This is clear from the resolutions it adopted.

The Russian official affirmed that Russia, in its capacity as a cosponsor of the peace process, will work hard and energetically to boost the peace process, which appears to be facing some complications now. He remarked: We are not pessimistic about this process and will continue our efforts in the context of our joint sponsorship of the peace process with the United States, Europe, and other countries that wish to see progress in the peace process.

Egypt: Commentary Views Christopher's Israel, Egypt Tour

NC2806133896 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Commentary by Zayn al-Ja'fari: "The Peace Process in the Region Is Still in the Balance"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is clear that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's current tour of the Middle East is completely different from his previous tours of the region, during which he used to continue what he started with the parties of the Arab-Israeli conflict, since he became secretary of state, proceeding from the bases set by the previous U.S. secretary of state. However, as a result of the new developments in the region, represented primarily in the rightist Likud Bloc leader Binyamin Netanyahu's victory in the elections and assumption of the position of prime minister, and in view of the extremism Netanyahu is known for, Warren Christopher's talks with the Israeli officials were more or less a feeling of the Israeli Government's pulse and an attempt to discover Israeli intentions toward the major parties in the peace process in the region. Proceeding from this, we say that Christopher came to the region to once again start entrenching new bases on how to deal with the Israeli Government with regard to peace efforts in the region, particularly since the Israeli prime minister's statements so far do not encourage one to be optimistic that the peace efforts will resume very soon.

This new Israeli stand requires a speedy and effective reaction from the Arab countries. The Arab summit was held in Cairo upon invitation by President Husni Mubarak and addressed the whole world with the strong message that the Arabs insist on establishing a just and comprehensive peace that preserves the rights of all the people in the region, and that the resumption of the negotiations is considered an urgent necessity on the condition that this takes place on the bases established by the Madrid Conference in 1991. These bases stem from the resolutions passed by the United Nations.

It seems clear that Christopher did not make any noteworthy progress during his talks with the Israeli prime minister. In his joint news conference with Christopher, Netanyahu repeated what he had declared in his opening speech before the Knesset while presenting the members of his new government. Once again, he declared that there should not be any preconditions in the case where the peace negotiations are resumed and that he gives Israel's security priority over everything else. However, what should be clarified here is that Netanyahu believes that the grounds all parties accepted are preconditions. Thus, he places a new obstacle before the peace process;

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the land-for-peace principle is not a condition in Netanyahu's view, but the major principle all parties have adopted, including Israel. These parties are negotiating within the framework of the land-for-peace formula in order to accomplish peaceful coexistence in the region.

If Netanyahu insists on his stand, he would be taking the peace process many steps backwards. Therefore, the major challenge before the peace process in the region now, as Christopher explained in his news conference in Cairo the day before yesterday, is to preserve the achievements made so far within the framework of peace and to build on them. Proceeding from this, President Husni Mubarak's visit to the United States next month acquires great importance in view of the fact that the objective of the Mubarak-Clinton talks guarantees continuity for the peace process on the Madrid bases, the United States and Russia are the cosponsors of the Madrid peace conference, and the United States is also a full partner in the region's peace process.

Egypt: Commentary Views Netanyahu's 'Intransigent' Policy

NC2906140496 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Commentary by Hasan al-'Ashmawi: "Israeli Government's Stance and Fate of Peace Process"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is clear to Arab and world leaders that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's current policy exposes Middle East peace to real dangers. This feeling has been reflected in remarks made by world leaders, who are interested in achieving peace in the region for the overall benefit of all its peoples. British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind has asserted that the new Israeli Government under Netanyahu has posed a real test for the Middle East peace process. He indicated that this government's intransigent policy precludes solutions for the issues of the Golan Heights and Jerusalem and opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state. Meanwhile, the Israeli prime minister has stressed that Egypt has laid the foundations for peace and that he looks forward to strengthening ties with Egypt and to establishing excellent relations with President Husni Mubarak. He expressed the hope that what happened in Cairo—meaning the Arab Summit Conference and its results, which serve the peace process—would be a merely passing event.

In turn we ask how Netanyahu can hope that the Cairo summit will be a passing event when that summit asserted that peace is the strategic choice of the Arabs? The summit also stood by the land-for-peace principle, a principle that has been the basis of the peace talks since the start of the peace process at the Madrid Conference in 1991.

The Middle East is at a crossroads because of the Israeli prime minister's intransigent stances and his disregard for and rejection of the basic principles of the peace process kicked off in Madrid. Israel's rejection of the land-for-peace principle and of UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 is overt opposition to the peace process itself.

We had believed that the Israeli prime minister's utterances on his election campaign trail were temporary and that when he took office he would deal with political events and regional developments in an objective way that would not scuttle the fruits of five years of peace talks and take the situation back to square one.

This grave situation imposes a great responsibility on the Middle East countries and on the United States, the sponsor of the peace process. The Arabs clearly revealed their stance through the Arab summit's final communique. They warned Israel against deviating from the land-for-peace principle, indicating that they would reconsider the concessions they had made if Netanyahu continued to pursue his intransigent policy.

In light of the recent developments, the fate of the peace process in the Middle East hangs on several factors, the most important of which are:

1. The Arab summit conference in Cairo asserted the principles and bases of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. It rejected any deviation from the principles adopted at the Madrid Conference and decided to confront any violation of the Madrid principles.

2. The extent to which the United States, the sponsor of peace, shows seriousness and firmness toward any Israeli deviation from the peace process and give real meaning to the remarks of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who cautioned Israel that the U.S. interests in the region are not confined to Israel but include the whole Middle East.

3. How the European countries behave toward the new Israeli Government. If the EU countries can link the cooperation program with Israel to the Netanyahu's government commitment to the requirements of the peace process, this will be a positive factor in forcing the Israeli Government to realize that linking its policy in the region to its own calculations could lead to Israel's isolation the world.

Therefore, it can be said that the coming phase will be most serious and its outcome will have a positive or negative effect on the whole peace process.

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Egypt: Papers Reject Washington's 'Clamor' Over Scud Missiles

NC2906080396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0615 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Jun (MENA)—Cairo papers published today reject the U.S. media and diplomatic campaign against Egypt, which started just as the Arab summit began in Cairo last week, with the fabricated issue of Scud missiles—and the components for manufacturing them—that Egypt is said to have obtained from North Korea.

The papers say there are interferences that are unacceptable in international relations, even between friendly countries, particularly when the matters involved concern internal affairs related to the state's security, sovereignty, and status. Referring to Israel's nuclear arsenal, which threatens the whole region, the papers indignantly query whether the reasoning upon which the campaign against Egypt is based is equally applicable to Israel, which possesses nuclear, chemical, and advanced conventional weapons and surface to surface missiles with ranges of more than 1,300 kms.

Under the headline "Egypt's Armament and Unacceptable Dual U.S. Logic," AL-AHRAM writes in its editorial: The storm being raised by the United States and Israel over Egypt's acquisition of Scud-C missiles and related technology from North Korea is unacceptable foreign interference in internal matters that concern Egypt's security and sovereignty. It says that Egypt has the full right to possess weapons that it believes are necessary for its security and for defending its sovereignty, especially when it has credibility that surpasses those of other countries in the region and possibly in the world in its endeavor to achieve and protect peace and in its respect for other countries' sovereignty. It adds: If the United States is really concerned about controlling arms in the region,it must do so honestly and start with Israel's nuclear and chemical weapons and the surface to surface missiles it has, whose range cover all the Arab countries surrounding it and which clearly show its desire to turn into a regional superpower.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says: If Israel, which is ultimately a small country whose population is no greater than one of Cairo's quarters, is in possession of nuclear and chemical weapons, advanced conventional weapons, and surface to surface missiles with a range exceeding 1,300 kms, then neither it nor the United States have the right to even query any Egyptian weapons purchases, because anyone who really wants arms control must start with the party that is most dangerous and capable of effecting total destruction, specifically with Israel, because it possesses weapons of mass destruction and is a threat to the region's security and stability.

Under the headline "This Is Our Fate With Uncle Sam," the weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM editor Ibrahim Sa'dah writes in his article: I was not surprised by the big clamor raised by the United States against Egypt, as a result of official U.S. sources' claims that the Egyptian Armed Forces obtained Scud missile components from North Korea. This is not the first time, and will not be the last time either, that Uncle Sam fabricates crises with the Egyptian leadership every time that the latter scores a victory, achieves an objective, or brings about an international achievement for its people and the Arab nation. He goes on to say: The reason for Uncle Sam's anger with and outburst against Egypt could be understood had the victories and achievements made by the Egyptian leadership at the national and international levels been targeted against U.S. interests, in its strongholds and centers of influence inside and outside the Middle East. But what cannot be understood or accepted is the fact that the objectives of all these achievements are unrelated to U.S. interests, having nothing to do with them at all. What is more strange and odd is that Uncle Sam's outbursts against Egyptian policy erupt every time Israel believes this Egyptian policy is conflicting with its interests or could provide backing and strength for the Arab Palestinians, Syrians, and Lebanese in the peace negotiations on these three tracks. According to the writer, Uncle Sam does not get angry over his own interests, but only when the issue concerns any opposition to Israel or when he believes that something is threatening Israel's interests or weakening the latter's position in the peace process.

AL-JUMHURIYAH editor Mahfuz al-Ansari says one of the most important objectives of this organized and contrived campaign against Egypt at this particular time and in the current conditions is to enable Israel to possess, manufacture, conclude deals, and obtain the types of weapons that allow it to fulfill its claims of protecting its national security in ways and means that it believes can guarantee this security.

The writer reveals that prevailing U.S. thinking, even under the shadow of peace, is to draw up a special type of balance in the Middle East whereby Israel will have military strength, in quantity and quality, that is vastly superior to that of all Arabs and whereby no Arab party, regardless of who this party is, will have a weapon that could reach or threaten Israel.

Concluding his article, al-Ansari says: This Israeli qualitative and quantitative superiority is the pivot of military balance in the region as Washington and Tel Aviv see it. Therefore, we are able to discern the

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reasons and motives for fabricating this clamor or lie about Scuds. We can also forecast what the coming days will bring to us under the policy of extremism, power, and aggression which the Netahyanu government is following, and which is backed by the Clinton Administration.

Western Sahara

Western Sahara: Abdelaziz Urges Spain To Play Intermediary Role

BR2806144896 Madrid EL MUNDO in Spanish 28 Jun 96 p 22

[Interview with Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic, by Carlos Alvaro Roldan in Madrid; date not given: "How Long Will Spain Allow Morocco's Blackmail"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With his characteristically faint, barely audible way of speaking and maybe smoking more cigarettes than usual, the leader of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has traveled to Spain at an especially sensitive time for the Western Sahara. The United Nations has paralyzed the identification process and withdrawn almost all its personnel from the area. The peace plan and the referendum are balancing on a razor's edge. Abdelaziz met with Spanish politicians, taking part yesterday in the Sahara Solidarity Conference in Madrid.

[Roldan] What does the UN decision mean for the immediate future of the Saharans?

[Abdelaziz] It is a very tough blow to the peace plan, and has negative consequences not just for the Saharan people, but for the entire region. We will wait and see what the United Nations can do in the next few months. I think that if, in this period, influential powers such as the United States and Europe exert pressure and make efforts to convince Morocco of the need to respect the spirit of the peace plan — a fair and final solution to the conflict — and at the same time of the usefulness of direct negotiations to facilitate this task, then I think that there will be cause for hope. If no such efforts are forthcoming, or if they fail, Moroccan intransigence will force us to take up arms again.

[Roldan] You admit that direct talks with Morocco are needed. Has Polisario taken any steps in this direction yet?

[Abdelaziz] We are convinced that direct negotiation and dialogue are necessary. International experience has demonstrated this. But so far, there has been no meeting between Morocco and Polisario, despite the international consensus on the need for this dialogue.

[Roldan] Could Spain, the former colonial power, serve as an intermediary between Morocco and Polisario?

[Abdelaziz] We do not reject any intermediary role that Spain or any other country might play. Nevertheless, when confronting the problem any mediator should bear in mind the foundation already accepted in the entire world, namely the UN-approved peace plan. Therefore, any mediation effort must serve the application of the peace plan with a view to achieving better coordination and convergence of these efforts. In this respect, Spain can play this role perfectly well, and I would call upon Spain to play this role. Furthermore, Spain, due to its international influence and location, is the best candidate for playing this role.

[Roldan] What is the view of Jose Maria Az. ar's new government with regard to the Sahara? Have you found the sensitivity you had hoped for within the People's Party?

[Abdelaziz] I met with Javier Ruperez, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in Congress, and I could see that the government has a real will to find a fair and final solution to the conflict. It was an interesting and profound conversation, and we agreed to keep this channel of communication open. I would say that between us and the Spanish Government there is agreement on how we perceive the extremely dangerous nature of this conflict in the region.

[Roldan] The PSOE's [Spanish Socialist Workers Party] promises when it was in the opposition were forgotten when it came to power. The People's Party has not promised anything. What are you expecting from the Right, now that it is in power?

[Abdelaziz] Today, both the PSOE and the People's Party can take account of the existence of a global consensus lasting 20 years. We are faced with a problem of decolonization. It should be solved on the basis of respect for the self-determination of the Saharan people. Furthermore, there are two parties involved in the matter which must engage in a direct dialogue. I think that all Spanish political parties, whether or not they are in the government, are clear on these parameters. And I am confident that the government will make whatever efforts are possible within these parameters.

[Roldan] Why, in all Spanish governments, has there been this "fear" about what Morocco could say or do?

[Abdelaziz] Historically, Morocco has used the tools of blackmail and pressure in its relations with its neighbors. In Spain's view, Morocco is an awkward neighbor precisely because of its political practices on issues such as fisheries, Ceuta, Melilla, etc. For how long will Rabat be allowed to continue using this pressure successfully?

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[Roldan] This month Polisario repeated that it is prepared to take up arms again. Is there a real threat of war?

[Abdelaziz] I would like to explain this point. We are not threatening anyone. Nor are we looking for a mere strategic play. We are simply presenting, objectively and empirically, a situation that could deteriorate unless steps are taken. In 1990, the United Nations committed its prestige and moral authority by guaranteeing a fair, free, and safe referendum. Given the current situation, we said a clear truth: Either substantive progress is made to preserve the peace plan and a fair referendum is organized, or the Saharans will be forced to defend their legitimate right to self-determination by whatever means necessary.

[Roldan] Bosnia, Rwanda, Lebanon... Sahara. This UN "moral authority" which you mentioned is going through a rough time.

[Abdelaziz] The United Nations' greater or lesser degree of success is something which international public opinion will have to judge. The only thing that I want to say is that a UN failure in the Sahara would help to greatly weaken the United Nations' credibility — even more than any other international conflict, since the Sahara is essentially the simplest conflict to solve. It is a problem of decolonization, of self-determination, of a UN member state which has tried to colonize another country. If the United Nations fails in the Sahara, then what is the chance of resolving more complex conflicts?

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Bahrain

Bahrain: Qatari Foreign Minister Delivers Message to Amir on Islands

LD3006094396 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0805 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 30 Jun — Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, today received a written message from Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, which was said to be "connected with bilateral relations between the two countries, the recent developments in the region, and issues of common concern."

WAKH said that Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani delivered the message to Shaykh 'Isa when he met him here today.

The Qatari minister arrived in Manama today on a short visit, which he said was aimed at "looking at ways for clearing the atmosphere" between the two countries in light of their disagreement over disputed islands in the gulf.

This is the first visit of its kind since the outbreak of the conflict between the two gulf countries.

Bahrain: Foreign Minister Criticizes Qatari Counterpart's Statement

JN3006182196 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1720 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 30 Jun (WAKH)—In reply to a question by WAKH on the visit to the State of Bahrain today by Qatari Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani, Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah said that the visit came as a result of a meeting held by the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] member states on the sidelines of the Arab summit in Cairo to achieve Arab coordination, clear the Arab atmosphere, and end outstanding issues between the Arab countries.

He added that Bahrain welcomed the visit as a new starting point in relations between the two fraternal countries, Bahrain and Qatar, but was surprised by the lengthy statement made by Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Al Thani the day he arrived in Bahrain — statements in which he renewed Qatari allegations about certain lands that are an integral part of the territories of the State of Bahrain and are under Bahrain's sovereignty.

The Bahraini foreign minister said that the statement does not serve the aims of the visit by the foreign minister of the fraternal State of Qatar, and which Bahrain hoped would be a new chapter in relations and would provide an opportunity to solve their differences in a brotherly way and within the framework of the GCC and the Gulf house.

Bahrain: Visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Voices Support for Bahrain

JN3006151996 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 30 Jun (WAKH) — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the delegation accompanying left Manama for Damascus this afternoon at the conclusion of a two-day visit to Bahrain, during which the Syrian foreign minister conveyed a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of Bahrain. The message dealt with bilateral relations, the latest developments in the region, and issues of common concern.

Al-Shar' was seen off by Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah, Bahraini minister of foreign affairs; Nabil Ibrahim Qambar, director general of the Protocol Department; and Muhammad al-Muhaymid, Bahraini ambassador to Syria.

In a pre-departure statement to the Bahraini television and WAKH, al-Shar' expressed his happiness at visiting Bahrain. He said he conveyed a message from the Syrian president to the amir of Bahrain dealing with current developments and bilateral relations.

He added that the message also contained a follow-up on some of the results of the recent Arab summit in Cairo and its resolutions, particularly those pertaining to the security, stability, and sovereignty of the State of Bahrain as well as the security of other states in the region. He reiterated Syria's solidarity with the State of Bahrain—amir, government, and people—and said the message expressed the concern of Syria represented by President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian Government.

He said that he visited Tehran yesterday to convey a message from President al-Asad to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, expressing Syria's concern and that of President al-Asad personally for the security and stability of the State of Bahrain in particular and the security of the Arabian Gulf states in general.

The Syrian foreign minister said that he was satisfied with the results of his visit to Bahrain and talks with senior Bahraini officials. He stressed that Syria will remain in constant contact with its brothers in Bahrain.

He said that he was also honored to meet with Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah. Al-Shar' said he held talks with his highness on the current developments in the Arab Gulf region

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and ways to promote bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries in all fields. He noted that his talks with Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah last night focused on the recent security developments in Bahrain.

He said that he is leaving Bahrain full of hope that bilateral relations will be constantly enhanced. He said: The joint action and solidarity that we stressed at the Cairo summit will help us achieve Arab solidarity and bolster security and stability in all our countries.

On the Iran-backed plot that targeted Bahrain's security and stability, Faruq al-Shar' stressed that in his talks with Bahraini officials, he said that Syria—leadership and people—is concerned about Bahrain's security, stability, and sovereignty. He said Syria will spare no effort and will do its best to help its brothers in Bahrain and to stress its concern about regional security.

He said he believes that good neighborliness and cooperation are major objectives to maintain security and stability in the Gulf region. He said his country rejects any foreign interference in Bahrain's domestic affairs and any act that would harm its security and stability. He reiterated Syria's solidarity with Bahrain—amir, government, and people—and expressed Syria's support for the measures taken by Bahrain to maintain its security, stability, and sovereignty.

Bahrain: 2 Shiites Jailed for Life for Bomb Attack

NC3006091696 Paris AFP in English 0908 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, June 30 (AFP) — Bahrain's state security court jailed two Shiite Moslems for life and four others for up to 10 years for a bomb attack outside a bank in Manama, lawyers said Sunday [30 June].

The six were accused of being part of a group which planted a home-made bomb in an automatic cash machine outside a branch of the Bahrain National Bank on March 6.

One member of the group was killed as he tried to plant the bomb and two were injured in the explosion, the authorities said at the time.

Two received life sentences on Saturday, while the four others got 10, seven, three and a year in prison. A seventh was acquitted.

Meanwhile, the state security court is to give its verdict Monday in the fire-bombing of a restaurant in a Shiite Moslem suburb of Manama in March that killed seven Bangladeshis, lawyers said.

Bahrain has been rocked since December 1994 by anti-government unrest led by Shiite Moslems demanding the restoration of parliament dissolved in 1975. At least 22 people have died in the violence.

The Sunni Moslem-led government in Manama has accused Iran of financing and training an Islamic militant group called Hizballah-Bahrain to bring it down. Iran denied the accusation.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Rolf Ekeus—Recent Visit to Iraq Achieved Little Progress

LD3006181996 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Rolf Ekeus, UN chief arms inspector in charge of eliminating Iraqi mass destruction weapons, affirmed today that his recent mission to Iraq had not achieved progress because Iraq had failed to account for several missiles and chemical weapons.

In a statement he made at al-Ahmadi area [port east of Kuwait] today, Rolf Ekeus said that the committee still had concern about issues that had not been accounted for, such as missiles and chemical weapons. However, he added that his recent mission to Baghdad had made an important step forward regarding unconditional agreement by a written pledge to allow UN inspectors to gain access to any sites they wished to visit. He described this step as "important," hoping that it would be translated into practice.

Kuwait: UN Arms Inspector—Iraq Still Concealing Banned Weapons

LD2906194996 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1840 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 29 June — Rolf Ekeus, the UN chief arms inspector, has reiterated here tonight that the UN embargo against Iraq will not be lifted so long as Iraq does not meet the requirements that it destroys its non conventional weapons in accordance with the UN resolutions.

In a statement to Kuwaiti television and the Kuwaiti news agency, Ekeus said that Iraq should provide enough evidence to convince the UN that it had indeed got rid of its weapons of mass destruction and programs related to them.

The head of the UN committee in charge of removing the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, who began a two-day visit to Kuwait earlier today, repeated his warnings that Iraq still constituted a threat to the region because

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it was still concealing chemical and nuclear weapons. [passage omitted]

Oman

Oman: 2 American Tourists, Others Perish in Floods

JN3006092396 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0715 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 30 Jun (WAKH)—Seven people died and two others sustained various injuries in Wadi Bani 'Awf in al-Rustaq, approximately 150 km west of Muscat, when heavy rains battered al-Rustaq and 'Awabi areas late last week. An Omani police source said that the dead were four Britons, two Americans, and a Dutch woman. A search is still under way for another missing person.

The source said the above mentioned people drowned when they were swept by floods in the wadi following rainfall on the mountain tops. They were among a group of 26 tourists of various nationalities who were visiting Wadi Bani 'Awf and enjoying the beautiful natural sites.

Al-Rustaq police units were informed of the incident on Friday [28 June]. Police units were then rushed to the scene backed by a helicopter from the Police Aviation Administration. The Omani Sultanate Police Force managed to locate three bodies on Friday evening. The next morning, following hard and persistent efforts, they found another four bodies in area difficult to reach by regular means of transportation. They used helicopters for the search because the site is located between two mountains in the Bani 'Awf valley. A search for the missing person is still underway.

Oman: 2 'American Pilots' Said Swept Away in Floods

NC2906203196 Paris AFP in English 2003 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muscat, June 29 (AFP) — Two American pilots were found dead after being swept away by floods on Friday [28 June] in the al-Rustaq region south-west of Muscat, officials said Saturday.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, said the floods in a mountainous region of al-Rustaq battered by heavy rain, had claimed other victims including some Britons.

He said he was unable to give further details.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Defense Minister Meets Perry, Makes Statement

LD2906232696 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] HRH Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general, has affirmed that cooperation between Saudi Arabia and the United States concerning the Khobar explosion is going well.

In a press statement he made after his meeting on 28 June with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, Prince Sultan stressed that the fight against terrorism should be global. He underlined that cooperation should begin in the region first and foremost. He said that acts of terrorism anywhere in the world give pain to everybody.

To a question on any effects of the bomb blast on Saudi-American relations, Prince Sultan emphasised that this incident had no effect whatsoever on relations between the two countries. Quite the contrary, he said, trust increased between the two sides, because the aim of this act was an attempt to create an upset in the good relations between the kingdom and the United States.

For his part, in a similar statement, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said that the United States stood on the side of Saudi Arabia in facing up to these terrorist acts. He expressed thanks for the cooperation of the Saudi interior ministry officials in the investigations into the incident. Mr. Perry reaffirmed that the criminals would get their deterrent punishment after the arrest. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Spokesman Denies Existence of 'Foreign Bases'

LD2906002396 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2340 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 28 Jun — A Ministry of Defense and Aviation spokesman said that the news circulated by news agencies about the existence of a U.S. base in Dhahran was completely untrue. He pointed out that the explosion which took place in a residential building in the city of al-Khubar last Tuesday [25 June] evening happened outside the Saudi base there.

The responsible source affirmed that that media handling was incorrect and untrue, in addition to the nonexistence of any foreign base in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

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Saudi Arabia: Prince Bandar on Security Situation, Cooperation With U.S.

LD3006134796 Riyadh SPA in English 1310 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhahran, June 30, SPA — Prince Bandar Bin-Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the kingdom's ambassador to the USA, has reiterated that the Saudi security authorities have been seriously shouldering their responsiblity.

In a press statement here yesterday following the visit of U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry to the eastern region, Prince Bandar said 'It would be difficult to say that the security situation is 100 percent perfect in any country.'

Even the White House in Washington was attacked twice, he said and added 'Two days ago the British forces stationing in Germany were attacked and a week before that an explosion incident took place in Manchester'.

With the grace of the almighty Allah and the efficiency of the Saudi security forces, the culprits involved in the blast incident that took place in Riyadh last November were captured and severely punished, he said.

'Those who are behind such explosions are spiteful and mislead elements and by doing so they aim at undermining Saudi-American relations, but with the grace of the almighty Allah their evil plots will be aborted and moreover the kingdom's security situation will remain unchallenged and the Saudi-American relations will continue unaffected'.

Asked whether there were indications about those who were behind the incident, Prince Bandar said 'as long as investigations are underway it would be better to stop commenting on the issue' and added 'all matters pertaining to the probabilities and outcome of the investigations could only be answered by the security men and the concerned authorities at the Interior Ministry'.

When authenticated information is available, there will be answers for all inquiries as Prince Na'if Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the interior minister, did before as regards to the isue of the blast incident of Riyadh, he elaborated.

Prince Bandar categoricaaly denied whether there were problems between the Saudi and American investigation teams and said 'Cooperation is existing between the two sides within the required technical framework'.

Prince Bandar reiterated that security in the kingdom is the responsibility of the Saudi security organs and not the responsibility of any other authority.

Cooperation is existing with the friends in so many matters and in particular in this respect and the two sides have identical views as regards to the fact 'security of the kingdom is the responsibility of the Saudi security men'.

Prince Bandar said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has earned the respect of the other countries due to the wise policy of its leaders and to its proper way in dealing with the rest of the world.

Prince Bandar highlighted the firm adherence of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Crown Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz and the security men to ensuring the security of the kingdom's guests.

I do feel optimistic that the Saudi security men will be capable of detecting the culprits, he concluded.

Saudi Arabia: Possible Role of 'Saudi Afghans' in Bombing Viewed

JN2806173096 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Report by Ahmad Idris in Islamabad from "The Week's Event" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Any explosion anywhere would trigger discussion in diplomatic quarters and concerned circles here. Our region has always been the base for such acts. The discussion now revolves around the so-called Saudi Afghans. They are part of the Arab Afghans who, with the consent of their governments, went to Afghanistan to fight in the war. They became experts in guerrilla warfare. During the war in Afghanistan, observers did not monitor any Saudi opposition organization based in Pakistan or Afghanistan, but they did monitor known individuals.

The Saudis who came to Afghanistan were classified into two categories. The first included those who worked for welfare and relief organizations and those worked under the supervision of their governments or semiofficial Saudi organizations. The second category included religious individuals who were angered by the situation in their country, and those received adequate military training.

Observers have ruled out that the individuals in the first category would carry out such operations. However, the individuals, in the second category, return to their country ready to carry out operations, particularly after the Afghan war, after they were disappointed by the so-called Afghan mujahidin, after Mrs Bhutto came to power in Pakistan, and after her government began to pursue these individuals.

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These elements could have recently gathered into one organization, and they might have travelled here and there to seek support from and to coordinate with other opposition elements. However, the birth of such an organization is certainly new, no more than two or three years old. These elements are affiliated with the Sunni Islamic reform movement, which considers other sects infidel. The Kuwait war made them hostile to their country's regime and revealed things that they had not known before. Most probably, these individuals carried out the Riyadh operation a few months ago, because Riyadh is the basis of the Islamic reform movement and the Wahhabite call. Observers wonder how these elements reached the Eastern Region, where they carried out this new operation, despite the deep differences in doctrine and the religious political thinking between them and the citizens of this region. Observers were not aware of any Eastern Region citizen in Afghanistan or in our area. Observers ask: Is it possible that those who carried out the new operation are different from those who carried out the Riyadh operation?

Saudi Arabia: Al-Mas'ari—Many Ssudi Dissident 'Afghans' Trained by CIA

BR2806123896 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 27 Jun 96 pp 1, 4

[Report on interview with Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Mas'ari by Carolien Roelants in London on 26 June: "America Provoking Saudis"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, 27 June — For Saudi dissident Professor Muhammad al-Mas'ari the bomb attack at the U.S. base in Dhahran came as no surprise. "I know how the population generally views the Americans. They are all united in considering the U.S. presence to be a violation of Islamic law and Islamic sovereignty on the peninsula," he said yesterday in London. "The overwhelming majority of the population also believes that the Americans came to the peninsula to occupy it. That whole business about the liberation of Kuwait is nonsense. We believe that the real reason why the Americans came was to control the oil fields, destroy Iraq, and reduce its armed forces in order to make it easier to impose peace with Israel." [passage omitted]

Al-Mas'ari, who was accompanied by two PR advisers during yesterday's interview, said that he did not want his comments about the Jews made last week to be interpreted literally. "It was Arab rhetoric," al-Mas'ari explained. He had wanted to say that Israel can never be accepted as long as it occupies Jerusalem and denies the Palestinians their rights. And if Israel complied? He hesitated. "In some respects Israel is better than the present regime in Saudi Arabia," he continued.

Back to the Americans in Saudi Arabia. Al-Mas'ari believed that it is clear that nobody accepts their presence, "because it is illegal and because they are protected by the corrupt Saudi regime which nobody likes and everybody hates. It is not true that the arrival of the troops was discussed by a kind of parliament. The Americans are acting as a protective shield for the Saudi regime."

"And everybody who has a tendency to violence or who believes that violence is legitimate — and many do believe this, there are many currents, such as the Jihad supporters, people who fought in Afghanistan, and others — these people then choose a target which is very easy, i.e., ethically easy, although militarily speaking it may be very difficult. They then attack Americans, killing or wounding them, and say to the ordinary citizen: These people have no place on the peninsula. Why are they here? They must go home and the ordinary citizen says: O.K., that sounds reasonable, it is perhaps regrettable that some people have been killed, but they should not have been here. But then they are soldiers, hired and trained to kill and be killed."

"But the Americans are caught in the front lines. The real war is against the Al Sa'ud family who invited the Americans and who have corrupted and plundered the country and violated Islamic laws and principles. The Americans happen to be a very obvious target, and everybody who wants to shoot is beginning to shoot at them."

Al-Mas'ari claimed that several small radical resistance groups are active in Saudi Arabia. "As organizations are not permitted, even charity organizations are subject to strict control and are now often abolished, people are acting in small groups and organizations, and in such an atmosphere of underground activities some extreme radicals also use violence. We are talking about tens or perhaps hundreds of small groups. There is, so to speak, not just one bomb, but a cluster bomb, which can strike at many places, at many places at the same time. That now seems to be the situation in Saudi Arabia."

He believed that many "Afghans" are clearly involved, men who trained and fought in Afghanistan. There are some 10,000 of them. "They are in a position to do such things. Many fought in Bosnia, Chechnya, and the Horn of Africa. None of them believe that the United States is innocent, none of them believe in America's love of human rights and democracy. When you look at the situation in Bosnia, you see that this is nonsense. They are therefore extreme anti-Americans and they see the American target as the most acceptable and direct target to attack."

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An ironic fact is that many "Afghans" were trained in the past by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, paid for by the Saudi regime. "Yes, that is a problem. When you train people you may find that they turn against you. It was not done in the interest of Islam or the development of Islamic or Arab values, it was done by the Americans for specific geopolitical reasons. And now they are going to pay the price."

Mas'ari considered the present Saudi leadership to be crippled, corrupt, and hypocritical. But what does he want to see in its place? "In principle an elected government which is accountable for its actions. Based on Islam, of course. The country is ultraconservative and Islamic. There is no question of reforming it on a Western liberal basis. Even in a relatively Westernized country such as Egypt, which was occupied by the British for 70 years, it was not possible to rob the people of their Islamic roots."

Will your Saudi Arabia be based on the Iranian model? "No, the Iranian system is based on the clergy, temporarily replacing the former imam. No, we will have normal elections, one man, one woman, one vote. Naturally some groups will have more influence than just this one vote, but that is the case everywhere. In England, for example, the press has more power than the actual share of the vote, and sometimes it does not represent the people. The same is true of the Zionist groups and the Jews, but that is only natural."

How many people do you believe you represent with such views? "I believe we reflect the c[illegible]ion of a large majority. We represent the intellectual middle classes, middle class bureaucrats, and military middle classes." It is just the ordinary citizen who, according to al-Mas'ari, has yet to see the advantages of elections.

Saudi Arabia: Opposition Figure Interviewed on Dhahran Blast

JN2806171796 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1535 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Interview with Sa'd al-Faqih, head of the Saudi opposition Islamic Movement for Reform, by Ahmad Suwaydan; place and date not given; from "The Week's Event" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Faqih] Most likely, they [the perpetrators of the Dhahran bombing] are a domestic group and part of the currents said to be associated with the movement and the Islamic groups inside. I think they are a domestic group. Personally, I do not think it is a foreign group. The message sent to the Saudi regime and the U.S. forces is twofold. The one to the Americans says: You are not welcome. The other, which is addressed to the Saudi authorities, says: Your attitude toward others by suppressing methods for a peaceful solution and throwing people in jail will definitely lead to violence. Most likely, this is the message. We have not seen any written statement. News agencies reported that two groups claim responsibility. However, no motive has been mentioned. Most probably, this is the message.

[Suwaydan] Do you think there is a link between the al-Khubar explosion and the Riyadh blast last November, which also targeted U.S. military presence?

[Al-Faqih] Logically, yes. The factors that led to the Riyadh explosion are the same factors that led to the al-Khubar explosion. The elements that could lead to violence in the Saudi community are strongly present. I think these elements will lead to other incidents. God knows.

[Suwaydan] In your opinion, do the attacks against Americans in Saudi Arabia have anything to do with the current which the media call the Arab Afghans?

[Al-Faqih] I think that the current inside Saudi Arabia is probably broader than the concept of Arab Afghans. This is because all the religious youth who live under suppression are candidates to join the current that believes in the use of force. This is because there is a kind of despair instilled in reform efforts. At the same time, there are restrictions against all the social leaders that can restrain the masses. They are imprisoned. These currents are also being greatly incited and instigated. Therefore, every religious person is likely to adopt the concept of the use of force at present.

[Suwaydan] In less than a year, there have been two major attacks against U.S. military deployments in Saudi Arabia. How do you explain this emphasis on U.S. targets, and what is its effect on domestic stability in the Kingdom?

[Al-Faqih] This question must be addressed to the groups that claim responsibility for these acts. However, I expect that if you tries to figure out how they think, you will find that they may believe that hitting U.S. targets will incite the Western media and attract attention to Saudi Arabia more than if other targets are attacked. Note that in the aftermath of the Riyadh and al-Khubar explosions, all of the world's mass media headed there to discuss the issue and analyze the situation to explore the nature of the relationship between the Americans and the Saudis. This could be a very important reason for selecting U.S. targets. However, I personally expect that if force continues to be used, perhaps not only U.S. targets will be attacked. There could be other targets. God knows.

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Saudi Arabia: Reform Movement—Blast Shows Use of Force Will 'Grow'

MM2806121796 London AL-ISLAH in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 1

["Extraordinary" bulletin issued by the Islamic Reform Movement of Saudi Arabia; received by fax on 28 Jun: "Time for Americans and Al Sa'ud To Reconsider Their Calculations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now, two days after the al-Khubar blast, the time has come for us to talk about the incident itself, the clues to it, its background, and its effects on Al Sa'ud and the Americans themselves.

First, the incident was not a surprise, as the circumstances that led to the Riyadh blast have not changed. In fact the factors prompting such actions have increased, causing the use of force to become a common phenomenon. As long as the regime continues to refuse to deal with this question by tackling the main causes of the phenomenon, it is bound to continue and grow.

Second, the incident occurred a few weeks after the execution of those suspected of involvement in the Riyadh blast. If murder and crucifixion is the most severe punishment, what has happened is conclusive proof that toughening the punishment has not prevented a repetition of the incident. As we said in the past, these people cannot be compared with bandits, criminals, and robbers. They are after martyrdom, and murder and crucifixion will only cause them to yearn for martyrdom and death for God's cause as they believe. Such punishments will not deter them from embarking on such actions.

Third, the incident occurred in one of the most fortified U.S. buildings and at a time when there was a state of maximum alert in this building, which means that tightened security measures failed to prevent the incident, but also, they will not be able to prevent similar incidents in the future.

Fourth, the incident occurred after a series of warnings to the Americans, who took them very seriously, while the Saudis, through Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, considered these warnings "childish actions." The incident occurred also after a number of official statements regarding the arrest and execution of the four people suspected of involvement in the Riyadh blast as tantamount to the eradication of "the terrorism phenomenon." If the Al Sa'ud [family] have any self-respect, definitely the [al-Khubar] incident should be a big embarrassment for them.

Fifth, the incident has proved what we mentioned in previous bulletins, namely that the Americans were not convinced by the Saudi story about the four suspected of involvement in the Riyadh blast. Having remained silent for a long time, the Americans have been compelled to talk openly after the second incident, saying — as revealed through official statements by President Clinton and others — that all the information the Saudi authorities gathered about the first incident is of no importance, and that they are still in the dark as regards the identity of the quarters responsible for the two incidents. The Americans have also openly expressed their protest after the second incident at the Saudi authorities' rush to execute the four defendants before the information was complete. It proves that the rush to execute them before the information was complete is attributable to their [the Saudi authorities'] attempt to rid themselves of an embarrassment, since the Americans pressed hard to interrogate the four defendants directly but the Saudis feared that that might lead to the gaps in the Saudi story being uncovered.

Sixth, despite some analyses hinting at possible foreign roles, we continue to believe that the responsible groups are most likely to come from inside the country. Whether this action is in retaliation for the murder of the four suspects or whether it is a continuation of the Riyadh incident, the logical analysis point to the existence of elements and factors in the current environment sufficient to produce such actions.

Seventh, if the quarter responsible for this incident really is linked to the group responsible for the Riyadh blast, the incident proves that the group responsible for the two incidents is better organized and widespread than what the regime had thought. The skillful implementation of the second incident confirms that the group is highly capable of carrying out such incidents and concealing its numerous cells.

Eighth, the incident occurred at the height of the dispute within the ruling family, and it will be impossible for the regime tc deal with the incident in a civilized manner, because the regime is now divided into several states within a state, since King Fahd's illness. [Interior Minister Prince] Nayif considers himself and his ministry a state, and [Defense and Aviation Minister Prince] Sultan and also [Riyadh Governor Prince] Salman regard their control of the Royal Court and their extraction of decisions from the king as state powers. So there is not a sound administrative system in which decisions are made and veiled strategy is drawn up. It is most likely that the security situation will remain in Nayif's hands indefinitely. And as Nayif is more narrow-minded and short-sighted than the rest, there is no hope of the policy changing. But, rather, the arrest and intimidation methods and the eradication of "terrorism" along the lines of the North African method will continue — which, in turn, will cause such incidents to continue. And the

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repetition of these incidents could completely eliminate the psychological barrier among the zealous young men, hence the use of force would become the best option in their minds.

Ninth, if the Americans were targeted in the two incidents, it is not ruled out that they might be overlooked for other targets [in the future]. In fact it would not be a surprise if the weapons were aimed next time against those who are thought to be behind the Americans' presence and behind all the suffering of the people in the peninsula. Those advocating peaceful reforms now feel besieged by these groups' argument. Thus every religious young man is expected to join this tendency, especially in view of this tendency's growth and the strengthening of its argument at present.

Tenth, in addition to the aforementioned strong causes behind the emergence of the use-of-force phenomenon — first and foremost the detention of the highly credible leaderships, the continuation of the suppression campaign, and making people despair over any form of a peaceful solution — a new phenomenon has emerged recently, namely the "we-have-nothing-to-lose" phenomenon, as unemployment, poverty, and deprivation have increased. The number of destitute and unemployed people who have nothing to lose has increased. They can see before them the ruling family enjoying luxury at the deprived nation's expense. This feeling, combined with religious feelings, will inevitably make this group an additional asset for the use-of-force tendency.

We have said in the past and say now that the situation is serious, and the regime's methods will not prevent the use-of-force phenomenon from turning into something normal. We reiterate that toughening the punishment or increasing security measures will not stop this phenomenon. There is one solution only: to restore balance to society, and the first step in this connection is to release and rehabilitate prisoners and hence secure an atmosphere of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, and finally, the nation's right to choose and judge the rulers.

Saudi Arabia: Senior Ulema Council Issues Statement on al-Khubar Blast

LD3006210596 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its 10th extraordinary session held in Ta'if yesterday [29 June], the Senior Ulema Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia issued the following statement:

A statement issued by the Senior Ulema Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Praise be to God and prayers to the last messenger [Prophet] Muhammad and his companions.

During its 10th extraordinary session held in Taif on 13t.2. [Safar] 1417 AH [corresponding to 29 June 1996], the Senior Ulema Council in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reviewed the explosion in al-Khubar town in the eastern region on Tuesday 9.2 [Safar] 1417 AH [corresponding to 25 June 1996] which resulted in killing, destroying, terrifying, and wounding many people, Muslims, and others. The council, having considered, studied, and scrutinized the matter, has decided the following:

I. This explosion is a criminal act, forbidden unanimously by Muslims for the following reasons:

1. In this explosion there is a violation of Islamic sanctities which are known by necessity as: violations of sacrosanct of lives, property, security, stability, the lives of people living peacefully in their residences, carrying on their daily life and activities and of the public interest, which is indispensable for people. [passage omitted]

2. According to the rulings of Islamic Shari'ah, the sacrosanct life is that of any Muslim and any person whose relationship with Muslims is governed by trust. [Koranic verse]

Concerning the killing by mistake of a non-Muslim living in a Muslim society God said: "If you belonged to a people with whom ye have a treaty of mutual alliance, compensation should be paid to his family, and a believing slave be freed." If a non-Muslim living under Islamic rule was killed by mistake, compensation and atonement are required, but if he was killed deliberately then the crime and the punishment would be greater. The prophet, may God's prayers and peace be upon him, said in this context: "Who kills deliberately will not enjoy the scent of heaven."

The person whose security is the responsibility of a Muslim state should not be harmed, let alone killed in such a terrible crime. This is a strong warning to anyone who kills a protected non-Muslim, as this is one of the greatest of all sins, the consequence of which is the denial of heaven to a perpetrator of such an act.

3. This criminal act includes a variety of sins identified by Islam. These are treachery, treason, injustice, aggression, murder, and terrifying Muslims and others. All these are bad acts, which are disliked and rejected by God, his messenger, and the faithful.

II. In characterizing this criminal act as sin according to the Shari'ah law, the council tells the world that Islam has nothing to do with it and neither does any Muslim

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who believes in God and the Day of Judgement. It is the work of somebody with deviant ideas and perverse faith, thus guilty of the crime. Islam and Muslims who are attached to the message of Islam, the Koran, the Sunna [tradition] of the Prophet are not responsible for the actions of such a person.

This is an act of spoilage and a crime condemned by Shari'ah law and the law of nature. This is why texts of Shari'ah law prohibit it categorically and warn the perpetrators. [Koranic verse]

We pray God Almighty to reveal the perpetrators so they could be punished according to Shari'ah law and for this country and all Muslim countries to get rid of them. We also pray God to guide the custodian of the two holy mosques, his government, and all those who are in charge of the affairs of Muslims to what is good for the country, help him to defeat evil and evildoers, wishing him success in protecting the faith and promote the welfare of Muslims. This is within God's realm and power and may peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family, and his disciples.

[Signed] The Senior Ulema Council of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom. Chairman: 'Abd-al-Aziz Bin 'Abdallah Bin Baz [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Council Statement Condemns 'Criminal Act' in al-Khubar

LD3006205496 Riyadh SPA in English 1949 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, June 30, SPA — The Shura Council [Consultative Council] on Sunday [30 June] strongly condemned the criminal blast which claimed the lives of many innocent people, injured hundreds of men, women and children from Saudi Arabia and other friendly countries, and sabotaged both public and private properties.

In view of the available information about this incident and out of the religious and national responsibilities of the Shura Council, it has decided to issue this statement which strongly condemns the perpetrators, instigators or planners of this criminal act against safe residents in al-Khubar, the statement said.

The council branded this incident a criminal act prohibited by Islamic sharia (law), rejected by sound human morality, and contrary to what the Muslim Saudi society has become known for: its commitment to values and respect for human relations, which requires justice. "And God loves those who are just."

The council realizes that terrorism is an organized crime that has hit across borders and continents, and terrorist cells can now move from one country to another, according to illegal regulations and efforts conducted by members of this organized crime.

It also realizes that terrorism has never in the history of humanity achieved any of its evil goals, nor has it ever gained the sympathy of individuals or peoples. Human nature rejects this type of criminal behaviour which is characterized by shedding innocent blood, killing people unjustly, terrorizing safe persons, blowing up establishments, violence, extortion, spreading corrution in the [word indistinct], which are denounced by all religions, minds and the healthy human nature.

Therefore, terrorism can neither be deemed a law or a norm, let alone a faith or even sound thought.

The Shura Council is proud of the kingdom has a cohesive, firmly-solid society where love and harmony prevail among its members on the one hand, and residents on the other.

This country — with its leadership, people and accomplishments — will always be safe and unharmed by malice or evil schemes.

While condemning this heinous crime and strongly deplores this ugly aggression which targets the security of Saudi Arabia and its government and people and residents on its soil, the Shura Council is confident that the hand of justice — with the guidance of Allah and the high efficiency of security agencies — will manage to apprehend the perpetrators and carry out the rulings of Sharia against them.

The council supports the position and measures taken by Saudi Arabia to fight terrorism and assist international efforts in this connection. It is also certain that citizens and residents will cooperate with Saudi security agencies to find those criminal murderers.

The council is also confident that such crimes will not hinder the Saudi development process nor will it affect the kingdom's international relations or its commitment to Islamic Sharia, and the support for Muslims and Islamic causes.

Saudi Arabia: Cooperation Urged To Help Catch Bombing Perpetrators

JN0107062296 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 27 Jun 96 p 3

[Editorial: "The Rancorous Criminals Will Not Achieve Their Objectives]

[FBIS Translated Text] The hideous explosion that occurred in the calm, peaceful, and beautiful city of al-Khubar two days ago is, by all standards, a hideous terrorist crime in terms of planning and execution.

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Since this crime, like one perpetrated in the al-'Ulayya quarter of Riyadh last November, is strange to our peaceful society and to our calm way of life—which does not accept threats to the homeland, citizens, or residents—the crime will not go unpunished.

The responsibility of arresting the perpetrators of the crime is not confined to security personnel. Everyone who is loyal to this country that provides him with security, safety, and peace—citizens and residents—should assume the responsibility of participating, along with the security personnel, in searching for the criminal or criminals who are hiding in their dark dens and planning their crimes to terrify or kill innocent people.

Although the criminal and terrorist blast in al-Khubar is hideous and strange to our society and life, the rancorous ones will not achieve their objective of distorting the reputation of the Kingdom, which enjoys social security, political stability, economic development, and cultural prosperity. The Kingdom is almost an island of security and peace, isolated from a disturbed world where problems, conflicts, and wars prevail in other countries. The Kingdom is fortified by its faith and protected by God and the blessings of Islam.

The Kingdom will remain as it always has: a state of security, stability, peace, development, and prosperity. It will also continue to adhere to its message of faith in life; to advocate the true religion; to serve the best nation on earth, the Islamic nation; to help the needy ones; to defend the rights of the oppressed; and to strike strongly at and deter any spiteful aggressor.

Saudi Arabia: Paper Welcomes G-7's 'Strong Message' on Terrorism

MM2806143296 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jun 96 p 9

[Editorial: "Evil of Terrorism; For the First Time in Many Years World Public Opinion Has Been Mobilized To Take a Practical and Decisive Step Against Terrorism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With U.S. President Bill Clinton's call for an alliance to combat the danger of terrorism, along the lines of the alliance that defeated Nazim in World War II, the Lyon summit is sending a strong message to all those who are using terrorism as a means of political intimidation and compulsion.

Clinton's call has been accompanied by a clear and decisive stand from French President Jacques Chirac, whose country is hosting the summit this year. Without doubt decisive stands and strongly worded warnings are needed, but it is necessary that these warnings be followed by positive and tangible steps to fight the evil of terrorism. It is extremely important to realize the scale of this evil if we want to fight the evil of terrorism.

However, unless the strong warnings and messages addressed to the terrorist circles are translated into tangible and concrete steps, these warnings will be mere words. In 1983, a blast in Beirut resulted in the killing of 320 soldiers and officers from the French and U.S. units serving in the peacekeeping force in Lebanon. The terrorism phenomenon grew following that blast and affected world states and powers such as France and the United States, but no practical or decisive steps were taken to combat this phenomenon.

However, at present it is a different matter, as there is clear awareness of the harm and damage that terrorism inflicts on the security and stability of new societies, and there is now the belief that no society is far from this evil.

A package of measures to combat terrorism were adopted for the first time at the G-7 summit held in Halifax last year. The Lyon summit is expected to give the go-ahead for the implementation of these measures.

As for the most important aspect of the matter, it is the recommendation that terrorism be regarded as a criminal act. Because the political romance that surrounded many terrorist actions in the sixties and the seventies is now nonexistent. The phrase "globalization" is being used at the Lyon summit; when it first emerged it was associated with purely economic matters. But "globalization" at present covers numerous spheres such as communications, which have almost abolished borders among states. The lives of numerous peoples have been affected as a result of violence and terrorism, whose sources should be pinpointed in order to fight and eradicate it.

Yemen

Yemen: 340 Reported Killed in Floods

NC3006133396 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, June 30 (AFP) — Three hundred and forty people died in floods caused by torrential rain in Yemen, Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, said Sunday [30 June] as he launched a campaign to help survivors.

Another 108 people are missing from the floods which swept six provinces and left a further 3,7770 homeless, according to a committee in charge of evaluating damage.

The United Nations sent an emergency team to the six provinces last week. It estimated the cost of the damage at 1.2 billion dollars.

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Iraq: Delegation Meets UN Officials in New York

JN2906084996 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 29 Jun (INA)— Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari and Dr. Shawqi Murqus, Health Ministry under secretary, met with Hans Corell, legal adviser to the UN secretary general. The Iraqi delegation also met with Yasushi Akashi, assistant to the UN secretary general for humanitarian affairs.

Yesterday, the Iraqi delegation gave the UN General Secretariat the plan for distributing foodstuffs and its annexes on medicine and other basic materials. The delegation handed over the plan in a meeting with Gharekhan, the UN senior under secretary, who heads the committee set up by the secretary general to implement the memorandum of understanding on the issue of oil in exchange for food, medicine, and other basic needs.

Iraq: Al-Anbari Hands Distribution Plan to UN General Secretariat

JN2806165396 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1608 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] United Nations, 28 Jun (INA)— Dr. 'Abd-al- Amir al-Anbari, accompanied by Dr. Shawqi Murqus, under secretary of the Health Ministry, handed the UN General Secretariat the plan for distributing foodstuffs and its annexes on medicine and other basic materials.

INA correspondent in New York said that the Iraqi delegation handed the plan in a meeting with Chinmaya Gharekhan, the UN senior under secretary who heads the committee that was set up by the secretary general to implement the memorandum of understanding with Iraq.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari told reporters after the meeting that Iraq accomplished what was required by the memorandum of understanding that it recently signed with the UN General Secretariat. Dr. al-Anbari added that the plan that was forwarded is comprehensive. He expressed the hope that the UN General Secretariat will implement the memorandum of understanding on the issue of exchanging oil for food, medicine, and other basic needs as soon as possible.

Iraq: Belgian Companies Ready for 'Instant Cooperation'

JN3006195796 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 30, INA— A group of Belgian companies have expressed readiness to engage in instant cooperation with Iraq and to offer facilities based on faith in the need to lift the embargo, according to deputy chairman of the Belgian-Iraqi Commission for Economic Cooperation.

Dr Fakhri al-Tahiri, who is also deputy head of the Iraqi-Belgian Friendship Society, told AL-QADISIYAH daily that he is currently in Baghdad to probe means of boosting trade and economic exchange in the common interest of the two peoples.

He added that his accompanying delegation comprises many companies, including those industrial firms that had done business with Iraq in the 1980s and now have the desire to resume trade exchange on preferential bases.

Al-Tahiri said the Iraqi-Belgian society have been working, since 1993, to explain Iraq's just position among humanitarian bodies, both Muslim and Christian, as well Arab communities abroad.

Iraq: Radio Comments on Al-Khubar Explosion, G-7 Meeting

JN3006212496 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Arab brothers: According to U.S. generals and bomb experts, the al-Khubar blast was 10 times stronger than the al-Riyadh blast. Two U.S. ministers were seen standing in front of a huge crater and a huge destroyed building. However, it appears that nobody posed the following question: Was the declared number of victims true? An explosion like that should have killed hundreds of people.

The explosion, however, was powerful and in proportion to the popular rejection of the United States in terms of its politics, positions, and occupational, arrogant presence [in the region]. The explosion shook the security strategy of the U.S. forces abroad, and caused the United States to dispatch its ministers and around 80 investigators not only to Saudi Arabia, the Arabian Gulf, and the Arab region, but also to other parts of the world. Clinton also went to the conference of the seven industrialized countries and made the explosion and terrorism a principal topic for that large gathering.

The U.S. proposal at this gathering was neither new nor surprising. It is true that the United States was agitated and wanted, as usual, all forms of terrorism to be condemned.

Imagine what the situation would be if the U.S. actions were not viewed as terrorism? Imagine also what the situation would be if the world believes that what the

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United States does is the only legitimate means to combat terrorism?

The world should stop following the United States. The world must also ask the United States about the causes of the former, present, and future explosions, because logic says that wrong begets wrong, that an insult by the United States is not a blessing or a benediction, and that enslavement does not spread slavery inasmuch as it nurtures revolutionaries and free men even in the cracks of rocks.

The world must also scrutinize the 40 measures the experts of the G-7 group recommended and must see if any of these measures deal with a U.S. withdrawal from the sentry posts it has planted throughout the world so that balance and logic can be restored, and a dignified life can begin to materialize.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Perry's statements that Washington seeks to avoid new attacks by issuing warnings, stepping up security, and taking other measures cannot act as substitute for the most important and only step; leaving the land which does not belong to the United States and which it will never have.

Iraq: Opposition Leaflets Attack Saddam on Resolution 986

NC2906160496 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Thousands of leaflets were distributed last week in the capital, Baghdad, and the central and southern governorates of Iraq. These leaflets expose the false allegations of the tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime about ending the economic blockade and the agreements signed between the regime and the United Nations on Resolution 986, known as the oil-for-food deal. Our sources of this news add that the leaflets confirm that the regime signed the resolution because it was forced to do so, as was the case with the earlier resolutions, after its ugly face was revealed when the mask of bartering with the pain and suffering of the Iraqi people because of the economic blockade of Iraq was torn off. The reason for this blockade was Saddam and the practices of his war-mongering regime.

The leaflets note that the allegations of the regime's rabid media — that agreeing to Resolution 986 is a favor Saddam did for the Iraqi people — is falsifying and distorting facts. The leaflets ask why, for a whole year, Saddam did not accept Resolution 986 and why this criminal continued to connive and stall for time at the expense of the Iraqi people, in whose suffering and pain the whole world participated. The United Nations and many other countries continued to sit back and watch this tragedy without doing anything serious that bind the hands of the tyrant and hold him and his regime fully responsible for the crimes he committed against the Iraqi people and the people and security of the region.

The leaflets hint that Saddam is gambling with Iraq's sovereignty on one thing: His staying in power. And this is the mother of all catastrophes. They assert that if Saddam is concerned about the welfare of the Iraqi people, he should relinquish power, which he got through the back doors of international intelligence. The latter's objective was to destroy Iraq and its infrastructure and to exploit Saddam's stupidities and the megalomania that grips him.

The leaflets warn the sons of the people of the need to remain alert to and careful about the games and allegations of the regime and urges them to be ready to make use of any opportunity to attack this regime, which has made the people experience all kinds of suffering and humiliation.

Iraq: Opposition Radio Blames U.S. for Inaction Against Regime

NC2906172996 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Observers are in agreement that one aspect of Warren Christopher's tour of the region was to attend to the Iraqi issue. They say that the accusations by some Arab and foreign news sources that Saddam's regime was behind the bombings in Saudi Arabia cannot be isolated from the circumstances in which the regime is living. This is shown by the fact that the U.S. secretary of state hinted during his meetings with some Arab officials at the grave risk posed by the Saddamist regime's continued hold on power and its profound hostility and intimidation of neighboring countries. This proves that Christopher's visit was not totally unconnected with the Iraqi affair, an important concern in this vital region.

One should note, however, that the U.S. Administration continues to rely merely on political and propaganda methods to confront the regime rather than exploiting certain UN resolutions, working out ways of bringing about change, or paying attention to the injustice inflicted on the Iraqi people. This means that the United States places its own interests in the region above

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all other considerations. The regime should have been punished for all its hostile policies against the region's countries and the Iraqi people. If the U.S. Administration were really serious, it would have found a way to carry out what is needed. But it contented itself with political and propaganda attacks and refused to move from the theoretical realm to actual implementation. This has encouraged the regime to show greater arrogance and aggressiveness.

Our Iraqi people are aware of the real nature of the international stance and do not depend on it much. They will rely on their own capabilities and confrontational methods until this fascist regime is overthrown and destroyed.

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Israel: Netanyahu Sets Up Committee To Stop 'Illegal' PA Activities

TA2806150496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The consultations on the Hebron evacuation and on Orient House, held at the prime minister's bureau in Jerusalem, have ended. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that no decisions have been made yet. After the debate on the issue of Orient House, the prime minister's bureau announced that the meeting addressed the Palestinian Authority's [PA] illegal activities in Jerusalem and ways to stop them. Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that a decision was made at the meeting to set up a steering committee that will determine ways to implement the government policy on this issue. The steering committee will be headed by Internal Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani. The members of the committee will be announced by the prime minister on 30 June. Participating in the discussion on Orient House were the foreign, defense, finance, and internal security ministers, among others.

Israel: Netanyahu To 'Physically Prevent' Visits to Orient House

TA3006061996 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The new Israeli Government is no longer committed to the letter sent in 1993 by then Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Yorgen Holst, with a promise to permit the continued development and functioning of Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

Officials at Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's bureau told us yesterday that the letter sent by Peres to Norwegian Foreign Minister Holst is no longer relevant. In this letter, Peres promised to permit Palestinian institutions to continue operating in East Jerusalem. Senior government sources told us that the Netanyahu government does not consider this document to be binding and has no intention of upholding it either in spirit or letter.

It is worth noting that this letter was brought before the Knesset for approval and caused a fierce uproar at the time when it was exposed by Beni Begin. At the time, Peres claimed it was a private letter from him to Holst. The present government will indeed treat it as a private letter which does not obligate Israel in any way.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has ordered the Shin Bet and the Israel Police to take firm steps against any illegal activities by the Palestinian Authority [PA] in East Jerusalem. One of the instructions issued at a meeting convened by Netanyahu on 28 June was to physically prevent visits by political figures to Orient House. In other words, the police will set up roadblocks around the building in order to prevent all political visits at any level from taking place. At the same time, Israel will inform foreign officials that they must not visit Orient House.

The previous government also demanded that foreign prime ministers refrain from conducting such visits but permitted receptions with foreign ministers which were described as courtesy calls. The present government opposes all such visits of any kind.

At the meeting on Orient House, Netanyahu said that as opposed to the previous government, which turned a blind eye to legal violations, he intended to vigorously enforce the law.

The Palestinians have already taken the hint, Netanyahu said, referring to last week's cancellation of a meeting at Orient House following a sharp message from the prime minister's bureau. [passage omitted]

Israel: Netanyahu Said Seeking 'Compromise' on Orient House Issue

TA2906185696 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen's video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Internal Security Minister Avigdor Qahalani is offering the Palestinians a compromise on the Orient House issue: The building will remain operational provided all government-like activities there are discontinued. Prime minister's bureau sources say no recommendation on the issue has been received, but senior political elements admit that Netanyahu would also like to reach a compromise that would prevent any unnecessary confrontation with the Palestinian street. Our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen has the details:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Rosen] The situation at Orient House is more complex today than it was before.

[Qahalani] Our objective is not to close Orient House, but to stop their activities.

[Rosen] This, more or less, is the headline of the paper Minister Qahalani handed to Binyamin Netanyahu at the special discussion on the Orient House issue held at the prime minister's bureau yesterday.

[Qahalani] If we can reach a situation where they realize what we mean by stopping their activities and stopping

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their takeover of East Jerusalem, we will have achieved our goal. I assume that we will decide on our course of action this week, and then we will tell them in no uncertain terms: If you carry on, closing the building will be a possible solution.

[Rosen] [passage omitted] The prime minister's bureau believes that the much-desired compromise is attainable. The building will continue to operate, but the government-like activities in it and in its environs will cease. [end recording]

Israel: Levi on Orient House, Relations With Egypt

TA3006152296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to honor its commitments and cease all government activities in Jerusalem. Levi said agreements cannot be honored unilaterally and that all statesmen are invited to visit Israel without prior conditions. In reference to relations with Egypt, Levi said that the Foreign Ministry is busy trying to return the dialogue with Egypt to one of cooperation and not one of confrontations and threats. Our political correspondent Udi Segal reports:

[Begin recording] [Segal] Foreign Minister David Levi called on the PA to issue a public announcement that it will halt its public activities in Jerusalem. The implementation of that commitment by the PA is a condition for advancing along other tracks, Levi said, adding that there is no unilateral honoring of agreements. Levi referred to the decision to ban foreign countries' representatives of any level, from prime ministers to low-level officials, from visiting Orient House during official visits to Israel.

[Levi] We are not going to get involved about who can and who cannot visit Orient House. There must not be any activity there, which is what the PA undertook. We do not have anything against the building. It can continue to exist. What it important is what takes place there as well as in other institutions.

[Segal] All peace-seeking statesmen will be received here with full honors without prior conditions, the foreign minister stated. Another focus of tension, which has been developing for several weeks, is with Egypt. Levi admitted that efforts are now being made to clear the air.

[Levi] We have differences of opinion and we are clarifying them. Therefore, I want to reiterate: Egypt is a very important factor in the peace process. We recently heard many contentious, bad statements by Egypt against Israel, as well as activity in the international arena.

[Segal] Levi said farewell to Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir. Levi praised Savir despite the open disagreement between them, and even said that he will be happy to consult with him from time to time. Savir's first advice to the Netanyahu government was to implement the agreement he drafted, Oslo B, in its entirety. In his farewell meeting with political correspondents, Savir disclosed that as Foreign Ministry director general he ordered that Israeli Arabs not be turned into a bridge between Israel and the PA.

[Savir] We do not have any need for a special bridge. I would not put the stress on their Arabism because we would find ourselves in a situation where 'Arafat has an Israeli Arab adviser, which must not happen.

[Segal] He was of course referring to Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi. In the meantime, assistant director general Eytan Bentzur is acting director general and will most likely soon be officially appointed to the post, but it is possible that he might be forced to share it with somebody else, perhaps Levi confidant Ya'aqov Bardugo. In the meantime, the two are waiting for a resolution of the problem by the civil service commissioner. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu's Personal Lawyer Given Negotiating Role With PA

TA3006125596 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jun 96 p 5

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu will continue to send his friend and confidant Attorney Yitzhaq Molkho on sensitive missions. Molkho accompanied Dr. Dore Gold, Netanyahu's political adviser, to his first meeting with 'Arafat.

Molkho, whose participation in the meeting caused public surprise, tends to stay out of the public eye, but is well-known in Netanyahu's close circle. He is considered the prime minister's emissary on very sensitive issues, and tends to his private business affairs. Netanyahu consults with him frequently on various matters, especially personal, legal, and economic issues.

Molkho also deals with Netanyahu's personal legal matters, including the purchase of his new apartment on Jerusalem's 'Aza Street and the sale of his old apartment.

Molkho is a permanent member of the Netanyahu's inner circle, which also includes Attorney David Shimron, Ronaldo Eisen, and several other friends. Netanyahu's

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decision to add Molkho to Gold's meeting with 'Arafat was due to the prime minister's trust in the man and his negotiating skills. Netanyahu aides said "the man is so knowledgeable about the negotiating culture, as well as Middle East bargaining, that Netanyahu felt it would have been a pity not to reinforce Gold in his meeting with 'Arafat."

Israel: Begin Criticizes Lack of Discussion on Gold-'Arafat Meeting

TA2806100596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Beni Begin voiced sharp criticism in the cabinet of the failure to hold deliberations prior to last night's meeting between prime minister's adviser Dore Gold and Yasir 'Arafat. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister replied by saying that the meeting complies with the government's basic guidelines.

The chief of staff surveyed defense issues and reported on the fatal incident in the Jordan Rift Valley. An economic discussion is now being held at the prime minister's bureau with the participation of the top echelons of the Treasury and Bank of Israel. Later, Netanyahu is due to hold consultations on Hebron and Orient House.

Minister Tzahi Hanegbi said that there is no doubt that there will be no Likud government without Ari'el Sharon. He said that a discussion is currently being held at the Prime Minister's Office with the participation of the justice minister in an effort to define the powers of Sharon's ministry. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the health minister made the remarks to several hundred demonstrators outside the Prime Minister's Office demanding that Sharon by immediately added to the government. He said that from his meetings with the prime minister he received the impression that the matter would be resolved within several days and that Sharon would also join the inner cabinet.

Meanwhile, heads of Lebanese border confrontation settlements called on the government to set up a special ministerial committee to deal with their problems and to have Ari'el Sharon, destined to become infrastructure minister, head it. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that the settlement heads convened in Nahariyya this morning and decided to demand from the government immediate financial aid to improve shelters and emergency infrastructures.

Israel: Likud Sources Report Begin 'Likely' To Quit Over Contacts With PA

TA3006165696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud sources says Science Minister Beni Begin is likely to quit the government because of contacts with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. They say Begin will probably resign if a government minister holds an official meeting with the PA's chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Their forecast comes following a sharp exchange between Begin and Prime Minister Netanyahu at the cabinet session on Friday over talks in Gaza the night before between the premier's adviser Dr. Dore Gold and 'Arafat.

Israel: Minister Begin 'Does Not Intend' To Resign

TA3006181396 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Beni Begin made it clear today that he does not intend to resign from the government despite the confrontation with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during last Friday's meeting, against the backdrop of relations with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. Likud ministers believe that such confrontations will become a matter of routine in relations between Begin and Netanyahu, but they still think that Begin will settle for words only.

[Begin Rosen recording] Beni Begin kept mum today as far as the media was concerned, but those who spoke to him heard that the headlines about his intention to resign are a baseless invention.

Many ministers, as well as elements in the prime minister's bureau who spoke with Minister Begin today, say that he will not resign. Although Begin is angry at the prime minister, several jokes and smiles were even exchanged between him and Netanyahu around the cabinet table today during the budget discussion session. As far as Begin is concerned, the basic guidelines stipulate that a dialogue with the PA take place only if the Palestinians fulfill all their commitments, which has not been the case up till now.

A senior Likud minister says that Begin is a conscience-motivated person who has turned adherence to a minority position to a way of life. He is used to losing in such arguments, but he will continue to say what he thinks, even sharply so, and will not go home. The prime minister's reaction, so the ministers agreed today, was aggressive indeed. The prime minister was hurt not only because of the content of the remarks but also because of the manner in which they were said. Begin asked for

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the floor and spoke for 25 minutes, finally stating: There is no reason to speak with the PLO; the government is in a state of panic. Netanyahu was livid with anger, but this crisis, so his bureau says, is already over. The prime minister and Minister Begin have resumed their friendship — until the next crisis. [end recording]

Israel: 'Political Sources' Claim U.S. Lobby Used To Pressure Egypt

TA3006101096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jun 96 pp A1, A10

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israel has decided to use its U.S. lobby to exert pressure on Egypt and warn it not to exacerbate its policy toward Israel. According to political sources, "we have loosened the reins with regard to Egypt."

Jewish activists in the United States, who had been briefed by Israeli diplomats, has approached congressmen in recent weeks and enlisted their assistance in pressuring Egypt over Cairo's negative, anti-Israel line.

Three senior congressmen who are viewed as friends of Israel — Senator Frank Lautenberg, House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Benjamin Gilman, and Congressman Tom Lantos — held talks with Egyptian Ambassador to Washington Ahmad Mahir prior to the Arab summit in Cairo. The Israeli sources reported that the talks were harsh, and the message conveyed to Cairo was clear: "U.S. aid to Egypt is not automatically guaranteed; it depends on Egypt's conduct."

The Israeli sources estimated that the pressure applied by the congressmen helped moderate the summit's resolutions and resulted in the relatively balanced line presented by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The sources explained that "official Israeli representatives are not directly involved in putting pressure on Egypt. Our people coach Jewish lobby activists, who then approach congressmen and senior administration officials."

The briefings for Jewish activists in the United States held by Israeli diplomats emphasized Egypt's negative conduct in various international forums, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's intransigent remarks regarding Israel, and the pressure Egypt has been exerting on various Arab countries to stall their normalization with Israel. The briefings further referred to the proliferation of anti-Israeli publications in Egyptian media.

Various sources assert that the decision to adopt a more trenchant policy toward Egypt and to stop tolerating the Egyptian stands was made at the end of former Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' term. As foreign minister, Peres was sharply opposed to his ministry's suggestion to retaliate against Egypt. Moreover, Peres turned down initiatives by Jewish organizations to act against Egypt. He evidently changed his stand in the wake of Operation Grapes of Wrath and Mubarak's refusal to invite him to Cairo before the elections.

New Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has embraced the resolute stand on the issue of Egypt, and has even made remarks in that spirit in his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and in public statements. [passage omitted]

Israel: Government Concerned About Relations With Turkey

TA3006063396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel is concerned about a worsening of ties with Turkey following the formation of a new coalition headed by Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan. Israeli officials have contacted a number of Turkish sources to verify if the military pact signed by the two countries could be hurt. This follows reports in Turkish newspapers that the new coalition government of the Islam-based Welfare Party and Tansu Ciller's conservative True Path party plans to cancel the agreement with Israel.

At the same time, political sources here said they doubted the pact would be called off.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 30 June reports that "Israel's ambassador to Turkey Tzvi Alpeleg said there was no reason to fear any revocation of the agreements signed between Israel and Turkey. The important thing is both countries' interest in maintaining the agreements, the ambassador said. Alpeleg added that there was no reason to believe that the deal signed to upgrade Turkish Phantom jets would be canceled. Ambassador Alpeleg was reacting to the statements made by Turkey's new prime minister, saying his government would honor all international agreements, with the exception of those which contravened Turkey's national interests."]

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Israel: Turkey's Ciller Sends 'Calming Messages' About Pact Future

TA3006102596 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Jun 96 p 13

[Report by Istanbul-based correspondent Sam Kohen, 'Oded Granot, Alex Doron, Menahem Rahat, and 'Ada Kohen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Former Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, Necmettin Erbakan's coalition partner, conveyed calming messages to Israel over the weekend. Ciller stated that the defense cooperation with Israel would remain unchanged and promised that she would make sure that this indeed happens. Under the coalition agreement, Ciller's party is to receive the defense, foreign, interior, education, and welfare portfolios in the new government, and Ciller will replace Erbakan as prime minister in two years. [passage omitted]

[A related report by Hemi Shalev, Menahem Rahat, and 'Ada Kohen on pages 1 and 2 of the same newspaper adds: There is great concern in Jerusalem about Erbakan's appointment as prime minister. Political elements said last night that Erbakan will undoubtedly do all he can to make the Israeli-Turkish defense pact devoid of content or even cause the annulment of the Turkish Phantom aircraft upgrade deal, although they could not say at this point whether he would be able to do so."]

Israel: Turkey's Erbakan Seen Planning 'To Renege' on Agreements

TA3006113196 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 30 Jun 96 p 3

[Editorial by Yosef Lapid: "A Message From Ankara"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kamal Ataturk must be turning in his grave: Seventy-three years after he founded a secular Turkish state, the authority is to be handed over to a fundamentalist prime minister. The unholy union between Necmettin Erbakan's Islamic Welfare Party and conservative Tansu Ciller's True Path Party bodes ill for the Western world in general and Israel in particular.

Erbakan's declaration yesterday that Turkey will honor all its international agreements unless they conflict with the country's national security interests is obviously an allusion to his plan to renege on the Turkey-Israel defense agreement. Yet Turkish democracy is sponsored by the army which reserves the unwritten right to intervene when politicians' conduct contravenes security interests as understood by the generals. Erbakan will be unable to sever the ties between Turkey and Israel if the army is opposed to such an act. However, he can be expected to do all he can to sabotage the relationship between the two countries. Moreover, he will seek closer ties with Iran and Syria in exchange for these countries discontinuing assistance to the Kurdish rebels. It means that this NATO member will embrace a policy overriding the most vital interests of the alliance. Pax Americana in the Middle East seems more remote than ever.

Israel: Likud Government Contacts Turkish Islamic Party

TA0107121896 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Binyamin Netanyahu's government is holding contacts with representatives of the Islamic Welfare Party [RP] that came into power in Turkey. The meetings are being held just weeks after Islamic party leader Erbakan, who was elected prime minister, made very harsh remarks against Israel. Our political correspondent Udi Segal is in the studio:

[Segal] The contacts between Israel and the Turkish RP began only recently, after the results of the Turkish elections were made known and it appeared that the Muslim party won the majority. The meetings were held between officials at the Israeli Embassy in Ankara and Parliament members and local council heads who belong to the RP, in an attempt to establish initial communication channels with people associated with Erbakan, the current Turkish prime minister.

During his elections campaign, Erbakan made harsh remarks against Israel and the West, and lashed out at the military agreement between Israel and Turkey, which was a source of concern for decisionmakers in Jerusalem, including Netanyahu's government.

A senior political source here said that the Turkish Government — which is based on a coalition between Erbakan's RP and the party of Tansu Ciller, the former prime minister — has not yet received a vote of confidence from the parliament; while the Army — which, according to the Turkish Constitution, may and even should intervene and must comment on political issues to defend stability — has not said its final word yet. [passage omitted]

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Jordan: Al-Kabariti, Syrian Charge' Assess Cairo Summit Results

JN2906175996 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the recent Arab summit were the focus of discussions between Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and the Syrian charge d'affaires in Amman, Wahib Jabr.

They assessed the results of this summit and discussed following up on the Jordanian-Syrian contacts held during the summit between His Majesty King Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Jordan: Premier 'Will Not Allow Anyone' To Upset Ties With Syria

MM0107093296 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Jun 96 p 4

[Report by Muhammad al-Da'mah: "Al-Kabariti Tells AL-SHARQ AL- AWSAT: We Will Not Allow Anyone To Disturb Our Relations With Syria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said that Jordan will not allow anyone to disturb Jordanian-Syrian relations, which have been witnessing a tangible improvement since the meeting held between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn of Jordan on the periphery of the Arab summit.

He was answering AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's question about the Israeli Government's accusations against Syria after the Jericho operation. The Israeli Government said that the perpetrators of the operation had come from Damascus across the Jordanian border.

Al-Kabariti said: "Contacts are underway to set a date for a meeting between the two fraternal countries' leaderships with a view to reinforcing brotherly relations and bolstering the peace process, especially on the Syrian-Israeli track, the Lebanese-Israeli track, and the Palestinian-Israeli track."

Al-Kabariti stressed that Jordan will "support the Syrian brothers in the negotiations in order to bring about a comprehensive and just peace based on the resolutions of the Security Council and international legitimacy, and Resolutions 242 and 338."

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Says al-Asad's Message to King Opens Door

JN0107081896 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Tariq al-Mumani, "special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti told the Senate Sunday that His Majesty King Husayn has received a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad that would open "door for future meetings between the two leaders following their Cairo meeting during the Arab summit," Senate Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi said.

Speaking to reporters after Mr. al-Kabariti briefed the Senate on the outcome of the summit, Mr. al-Lawzi quoted the prime minister as saying that the Syrian president's message was delivered by the Syrian Charge d'Affaires Wahib Jabir Saturday.

Asked if the message contained an invitation for the King to visit Damascus, Mr. al-Lawzi said: "The prime minister only mentioned the message and its objectives without giving further details."

Referring to the other topics reviewed at the meeting Mr. al- Lawzi said that "the prime minister briefed the Senate on the meetings in Cairo and King Husayn's side talks with Arab leaders, including the Syrian president during which he reaffirmed Jordan's absolute support for excellent relations with Damascus on the basis of the Kingdom's beliefs that the Arab states have common goals and face common destiny."

The prime minister briefed the Senate on Jordan's relations with other countries including Iran and Turkey and said that such relations should be based on mutual respect and close cooperation and non-interference in the internal affairs of any other country, Mr. al-Lawzi said.

He quoted Mr. al-Kabariti as telling the Senate that "the security of each Arab state is an integral part of the overall Arab nation's security and that all Arab states should remain committed to safeguarding the national security and should respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all Arab countries and combat acts of terrorism in all their forms."

In his briefing Mr. al-Kabariti reiterated Jordan's support for the Palestinian people in their drive to regain their rights and establish their independent state in Palestine. He also reaffirmed Jordan's commitment to the achievement of comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

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Jordan: G-7 Final Statement Viewed as 'Important,"Unprecedented'

JN3006115296 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 30 Jun 96 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "Industrialized States' Summit Final Statement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Perhaps the paragraphs included in the final statement issued by the seven industrialized states and Russia regarding the current Middle East situation stand as the strongest international statement by the richest and strongest world states urging Israel to stop its maneuvering in meeting the requirements of the peace process, which is now facing the danger of a total collapse if Binyamin Netanyahu's government continues to pursue its declared policy.

No doubt, the significance of the Lyon summit final statement stems from the weight of the eight states who signed it, in addition to the fact that its timing was very appropriate and commensurate with the Arab summit's final statement issued last week. The Arab summit's final statement called on the new Israeli Government to resume the Middle East peace process by fulfilling its written obligations and pledges and not just by paying elusive lip service claiming that Israel is still committed to the peace process.

The industrial states' final statement gave qualitative assertion of the Arab summit final statement, not just by asking Israel to fulfill its obligations toward the peace process, but also by restoring respect for the land-for-peace principle, being the cornerstone of the peace initiative launched by the international community at the Madrid conference in 1991.

This important statement issued by the richest of states — something which is unprecedented in any previous rich states' summits — would not have been issued in the first place had it not been for the growing realization by the entire world that the peace process is facing an extremely serious threat in light of Netanyahu's policy statement which rejects the land-for-peace formula and which is replete with countless Israeli no's. These no's are unacceptable preconditions.

As we welcome the industrialized states' final statement issued in the French city of Lyon yesterday, and as we commend the language used in this statement — which clearly urges Netanyahu's government to take practical steps to realize just and comprehensive peace — we voice hope that this statement will be a strong warning for the Israeli extremists. We hope it will warn them against what the situation in the Hebrew state might come to if it surrenders to the illusion that the entire world will allow the Middle East peace process to be undermined.

Jordan: 'Strong Action' Against State-Backed 'Terrorism' Advocated

JN2906114296 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jun 96 p 6

["Jordanian Perspective" column by Musa Kilani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Coming as it did on the heels of the historic Arab summit in Cairo, the bomb blast in Saudi Arabia underlined the Jordanian case against terrorism, that was highlighted in Cairo but side-stepped by the Arab leaders gathered there.

Much as we hate to say "we told you so," the fact remains that the wisdom of the Jordanian approach to counter terrorism and the success the Kingdom has had in largely containing it after paying a high price in Jordanian lives was not given its due at the Cairo summit.

When His Majesty King Husayn raised the issue of terrorism and insisted that the summit take a clear stand regarding the subject, more than one Arab leader gathered in Cairo implicitly and explicitly sought to shelve the topic and largely succeeded in preempting strong collective Arab action to counter terrorism.

Not that a strong Arab declaration against terrorism from Cairo would have averted the truck-bomb explosion in Saudi Arabia, but the basic foundation would have been laid for collective action when such attacks are carried out. It would have also been possible to draw up a definitive plan of action and mechanism for inter-Arab cooperation to launch an effort to eliminate the roots of terrorism in our midst.

Instead, what happened in Cairo in this context served the purposes of some countries in the Middle East but, as the blast in Saudi Arabia exemplified, such purposes do not bode well for the security and stability of the region. That was the implicit and explicit message that His Majesty sought to emphasise at the summit.

The explosion at al-Khubar that targeted American servicemen showed the world that despite all talks of peace and stability in the Middle East some of the root problems have yet to be addressed, among them the support of some countries in the region for terrorism as a tool for implicit political gains.

There is no doubt that the blast in al-Khubar, and others that preceded in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere, could not have been carried out without support from governments which control borders in the region. As such, it is time that those governments, despite their vehement denial

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of charges, should be held directly responsible for their complicity and support for such terrorist actions.

Our experience has made it abundantly clear that there is no room for a soft approach to states that support terrorism. We, in Jordan, have paid a high price for our moderation and advocacy of dialogue as a means for settling differences and as far as we are concerned, there should be strong action to root out state support for extremism.

Beyond that, however, is the reality that those who carry out extremist attacks under orders received from states are motivated not simply because they are religious fanatics. Again, Jordan has said it time and again that no religion, particularly Islam, endorses terrorist actions as a means to serve its tenets. The Jordanian argument has always been that terrorism owes itself to despair and misery and the denial of social justice around us.

The attack in al-Khubar may not be the best example in this context, but what we have seen in the Palestinian territories and other areas around us in the recent past as well as over the last few decades is the clear indication that unless the issues of people are directly addressed in terms of improvement in life, simultaneously with progress toward political peace, the roots of terrorism would remain as strong as ever.

Jordan: UK's Rifkind Says Bilateral Relations 'Exceptionally Good'

JN0107081996 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Jul 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London (J.T.)—Britain's Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, who is due in Jordan this week, said in a television interview that his country is "very happy to help with Jordan's economic development and also to respond to other requirements as they arise."

In an interview with the London-based Middle East Broadcasting Company, the British minister said that Britain has "a long history of extremely close relations with Jordan. We believe Jordan is a very stable and responsible country. I believe that King Husayn has been a tremendous force for stability and for constructive dialogue in the region and therefore we have exceptionally good bilateral relations. So there are good opportunities for a very constructive dialogue."

Asked on aid for Palestine, Mr. Rifkind said: "I believe that there are two important economic questions here. I think what is crucial to the Palestinians, and I remember Yasir 'Arafat saying this to me last year, is the reopening of the border. whenever the border is closed between Gaza or the West Bank and Israel, that has a major damaging economic consequence, and that is even more important than international economic assistance." He said that the European Union is able to provide a lot of economic help to the region, but added "you cannot do that in a vacuum, it has to be part of a wider strategy. I believe there is a will to assist in that line." Asked to comment on the tension between Syria and Turkey, he said: He believed that between Turkey and Syria there is no fundamental reason for any conflict, for any major deterioration in relationships. "I think there is goodwill on both sides, and perhaps with some help from others progress can be made."

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Lebanon: 'Fierce' Israeli Shelling, 'Resistance' Attacks Reported

NC2906054096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces continued their aggression against Lebanon, violently shelling areas in Western al-Biqa' this morning. Security sources counted about 75 artillery rounds of various calibers falling in less than one hour. Correspondents of the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY [NNA] in Western al-Biqa' and Hasbayya reported that at 0500 [0200 GMT] today, the occupation forces directed heavy and concentrated fire at al-Surayrah hills, Maydun, and Birkat Jabbur, while Israeli warplanes were flying extensively over the region. The shelling was accompanied by machinegun raking of the al-Dahr hills. The shelling continued intermittently against the hills of Mashgharah, 'Ayn al-Tinah, and Abu Rashid.

NNA correspondents in Western al-Biqa' reported that in retaliation for these acts of aggression, a resistance group stormed the occupation posts in Kawkaba, 'Ayn Qinya, Zaghli, and Zummarayya and clashed with the troops manning those positions. Because of fierce and intensive Israeli shelling of the areas around the posts, the losses of the enemy could not be determined.

A NNA correspondent in Hasbayya reported that a rocket fired by the resistance at an armored personnel carrier of the occupation militias [South Lebanese Army] in Abu Qamhah directly hit and burnt the vehicle. The losses could not be determined.

In the past few hours, the Israeli shelling targeted areas around al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The resistance launched several attacks against enemy posts and patrols in the occupied strip. A NNA correspondent reported a short time ago that the Kafr Rumman woods came under fire and that resistance men attacked the posts of Sujud, al-Suwayda', and Bi'r Kallab.

Lebanon: Woman Hurt in Israeli Shelling; Hizballah Fires SAM-7

NC2906094296 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Israeli forces stationed in al-Zaffatah this morning shelled the forests of Sujud-al-Rayhan in Iqlim al-Tuffah, the woods of Kafr Rumman and 'Arab Salim, the al-Zahrani river basin, and the surroundings of Habbush. At 0915 [0615 GMT], Israeli helicopters raked Jabal al-Dahr and the outer parts of al-Qulaylah and Dallafah. The Israeli shelling against Western al-Biqa' targeted the town of Libbaya, where citizen Muna Muhammad Makki, 30, was injured. The shelling also targeted Birkat Jabbur, Abu Rashid, and the hills of al-Surayrah and al-Qatranah. This was accompanied by Israeli warplane flights. [passage omitted]

The Islamic Resistance fired a SAM-7 missile at an Israeli plane. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Army Command Issues Statement on Israeli Shelling, Flights

NC2906114396 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance announced that it launched nine attacks against joint positions of the Israeli forces and the Lahd militias [South Lebanese Army] today. A source at the UN Interim Force in Lebanon said three Lahd militiamen were injured and taken to Marj 'Uyun hospital. [passage omitted]

The Guidance Directorate of the Lebanese Army Command issued the following statement: At 0745 [0445 GMT] today, Lebanese Army positions in Libbaya in Western al-Biqa' came under concentrated artillery shelling. Only material damage was caused. At 0935, enemy helicopters flew over Lebanese Army positions in Western al- Biqa' and were confronted by antiaircraft guns.

Lebanon: Hizballah Reports Death of Member in Southern Clashes

NC2906171596 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The guarded calm on the domestic front due to the election issue contrasted today with tension on the security front in the south. The south was the scene of several resistance operations and Israeli artillery bombardments of targets, including the Lebanese Army's positions in Libbaya.

According to Lebanese police reports, a Hizballah member was killed and four others were wounded during eight separate attacks carried out by the party against Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army, SLA] positions. Three of Lahd's troops were wounded.

The police added that a 29-year-old woman was slightly injured by shrapnel in Libbaya, where about 200 Israeli shells fell.

Hizballah issued a statement in Beirut announcing that its fighters had succeeded in taking over the Kawkaba position for 20 minutes, raised the Hizballah flag over it, destroyed the position's fortifications, a troop carrier, and an armored vehicle, and blew up the position's ammunition depot.

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An Israeli military spokesperson confirmed the attack, noting that a large number of infantry had tried to occupy the position but were repulsed, leaving a large quantity of weapons behind them. The spokesperson said that three Lahd troops were wounded.

Hizballah announced that 24-year-old Ahmad Khalifah, one of its members, was killed in the fighting. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: 4 Hizballah Members Seriously Injured in 29 Jun Fighting

NC3006072496 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to press reports, at least four terrorists are being treated in hospitals from serious injuries inflicted on them during the clashes which broke out between South Lebanese Army [SLA] troops and members of the Iranian-Syrian enemy militia yesterday morning. The enemy carried out an abortive attack against Kawkaba. The body of one of the terrorists was left behind at the scene of the attack. The Hizballah mouthpiece the Voice of Light said that the dead terrorist is Ahmad 'Ali Khalifah, from al-Ghaziyah in Tyre. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Hizballah Seen Gearing Toward 'Large-Scale Operations'

TA0107091396 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 1 Jul 96 p A6

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Hizballah again attacked the Kawkaba outpost in the northern part of the security zone's eastern sector. This outpost was attacked on 29 June by dozens of Hizballah fighters who were ultimately repelled by SLA [South Lebanese Army] troops after a protracted battle.

The terrorists fired mortars and light weapons at the outpost, wounding an SLA soldier.

The results of an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] investigation into the 29 June fight indicate that the Hizballah gunmen got very close to the outpost and videotaped their offensive. In the film that was later distributed, terrorists are seen shooting at the outpost while additional teams of fighters approach the camp and manage to stick two flags in an unmanned position at the edge of the outpost. The SLA troops later removed the flags and hurled them the ground.

The terrorists filmed the attack from the moment it began until one of them was wounded. Military sources who saw the footage said that the first part of the tape is authentic but that for some reason the second part is cut short.

The IDF explained that the terrorists attacked the outpost using advanced fighting methods. A military source expressed the assessment that Hizballah has incorporated battle doctrines from the IDF and other countries. According to the military sources, Hizballah is now trying to expand the scope of its activity to army- scale operations while also pursuing its traditional guerrilla methods. According to the military sources, large-scale operations involving the participation of 60 Hizballah gunmen, equipped with sophisticated weapons, heavy flak jackets, steel helmets, and communications equipment indicate that the terrorists are trying to prepare their squads to launch large-scale attacks aimed at conquering IDF and SLA targets.

The IDF's initial debriefing also revealed that the SLA troops realized that they were being attacked by dozens of Hizballah fighters at the very onset of the battle. There were 14 SLA soldiers in the outpost at the time. They reacted rapidly and shot and killed one terrorist, eventually rebuffing their attackers.

A senior IDF officer said: "It would have been terrible if Hizballah had succeeded in seizing the outpost. They would have killed the soldiers or taken them prisoner. It would have led to the SLA's collapse."

Yesterday, searches continued in the area for explosive charges and other materiel abandoned by the terrorists in their flight.

Lebanese security sources reported that the Israeli troops have reinforced their presence on the main roads and the entrances to villages. While carrying out their searches among security zone residents, the Israeli soldiers use a robot and dogs which have been specially trained to sniff out explosives.

Lebanon: 3 SLA Soldiers Wounded in Hizballah Attacks

NC2906075996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0700 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] repulsed a series of attacks launched by the militias of the Iranian-Syrian enemy [Hizballah] against several positions in the eastern sector at dawn today. Our military correspondent says that at 0445 [0145 GMT] today, the saboteurs tried to attack the posts of Kawkaba, Sujud, al-Ghuzlan, and 'Arab Salim using machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades, while covered by intensive artillery shelling. The soldiers manning the posts returned fire, supported by artillery. Three SLA soldiers were slightly wounded and taken

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to the hospital for treatment. The losses inflicted on the saboteurs are not yet known.

In an attempt to raise the morale of the saboteurs, their radio, Voice of Light, claimed that they raised Hizballah's flag on Kawkaba post. But our military correspondent contacted a high-ranking SLA military source and received assurances that the saboteurs did not come anywhere near the posts and failed to raise their flag on any of them.

Lebanon: 'Frightful Blow' to IDF, SLA Said Averted in South

TA2906184096 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Moti 'Eden's video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Hizballah and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] today engaged in a protracted battle in south Lebanon. A Hizballah terrorist was killed, and three terrorists were wounded in this coordinated Hizballah attack on SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions. Our correspondent in the north Moti 'Eden reports:

['Eden] Two IDF gunships and an SLA officer named Fahd Badawi stopped the offensive against the Kawkaba position in the northeastern sector of south Lebanon at 0630 this morning. It was a major Hizballah triumph that could have resulted in another frightful blow to the IDF and the SLA. It was an assault of a kind we have not seen for many years in south Lebanon, with dozens of Hizballah terrorists participating. Simultaneously with an attack on all the flanks of the position, aimed at taking the position and flying the Hizballah banner — which was later found abandoned on the road — the terrorists fired at six more SLA positions in the area. Two helicopter gunships, which immediately arrived on the scene, caught the terrorists at the very outset of the offensive. One terrorist was killed and four sustained moderate to serious injuries in the ensuing gunfire from the helicopters and the positioned troops. Four SLA soldiers were also wounded. [passage omitted]

The terrorists left behind many personal arms, antitank weapons, LAW [light antitank weapon] rockets, pipe bombs, mines, hand grenades, and communication radios. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Israeli Shelling, Overflights, Troops Said 'Massing'

NC0107094296 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli attacks continue on the liberated areas while American-French talks continue on the possibility of resuming the Washington meetings with the aim of forming the military monitoring body stemming from the April Understanding. Reports from the occupied strip indicate that the occupation forces are massing troops in the area.

The enemy forces bombarded various areas in the south and Western al-Biqa' including Iqlim al-Tuffah during the past few hours. The attacks concentrated on the hills of Jabal al-Dahr and the Mimis sector. These attacks were accompanied by intensive reconnaissance flights by helicopter gunships over the areas and along the combat line.

Reports from the occupied border strip note that the occupation militia, led by Agent Antoine Lahd, seeks to launch compulsory recruitment and has forbidden men between 18 and 25 from leaving the border areas. The militia is using coercive terrorist measures and kidnapping citizens on the pretext that they are collaborating with the Resistance.

The inhabitants of Bint Jubayl issued a statement calling on citizens to confront the carrot-and-stick policy pursued by the occupation army.

Lebanon: Further Israeli Shelling Reported; 11 SLA Members Hurt

NC0107121796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports from the occupied strip say an Israeli occupation army infantry unit deployed in the Kawkaba area raked the areas of Suq al-Khan and Burghuz with machine-gun fire this morning. Meanwhile, around 20 artillery shells fell on the Jibal al-Dahr hills from the occupation forces' position in Tallat al-Shurayfah.

Some 11 members of the Lahd [South Lebanese Army] militia at the Kawkaba post were hurt and evacuated to Marj 'Uyun hospitals.

The Israeli artillery began its random bombardment this morning while Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the south, particularly the western and central sectors and the al-Nabatiyah area.

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Syria: Foreign Minister al-Shar' Leaves for Tehran 29 Jun

JN2906121796 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' suddenly left Damascus for Tehran today. What is the purpose of the visit and what topics will he discuss in Tehran? We have the following from our correspondent in Damascus Thana' al-Imam.

[Begin al-Imam recording] Informed sources say that Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's talks in Tehran will deal with the latest developments in the region, particularly the onslaught against the two countries by Netanyahu's government which seeks to accuse both of terrorism to isolate Iran and divert attention from Netanyahu's attempts to evade the basis of the peace process which is grounded on the [UN Security Council] resolutions and the land-for- peace principle.

Diplomatic quarters say the situation in southern Lebanon and the possible eruption of the situation there as a result of Israeli operations will be the main points the two sides will discuss, particularly since Syria holds Israel responsible for the delay in the formation of the security committee that is stipulated in the April understanding.

Responsible Syrian sources denied any tension in Syrian-Iranian relations following the final statement issued by the Cairo summit which called on Iran to respect the sovereignty of Bahrain and end its occupation of the United Arab Emirates islands. The sources said Syria managed to soften the language of the two paragraphs which contained no explicit denunciation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. [end recording]

Syria: 'Arafat Reportedly To Visit Damascus 'Next Month'

JN2906175696 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Arafat is expected to visit Damascus next month for talks with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This was learned from Palestinian sources in the Syrian capital. Sa'id Kamal, Arab League assistant secretary general for Palestinian affairs, who is visiting Damascus, said his talks with Syrian officials touched on an anticipated visit to Damascus by 'Arafat.

Syria: Netanyahu Policy 'Not Changed' After Christopher Meeting

JN2906054896 Damascus SYRIA TIMES in English 26 Jun 96 p 5

[Editorial by Walid Shihadah: "The Israeli Answer!"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Israel yesterday and is due in Cairo today. His visit is described by some officials as exploratory and according to American sources Mr. Christopher will see for himself how the new Israeli Government led by Benyamin Netanyahu approaches the peace process. He will also find out if he can build a relationship with Netanyahu similar to that built with his two predecessors Rabin and Peres. However, the report released by the Israeli Prime Minister's office after the talks with Mr. Christopher says that Netanyahu is prepared to resume the peace process with the Palestinians provided that the Israeli security needs are met, and to re-open talks with Syria and Lebanon without pre-conditions.

The tone has not changed. The words and rhetoric used by Netanyahu during his election campaign and shortly after his victory and yesterday after talks with Mr. Christopher are the same. The "No's" he used are echoed in the new statement. The pretext of security is quite openly unjustified, because it is axiomatic that peace brings security, not the other way around. Security, it is universally acknowledged, is a need for every one. It is as much a need for the Arabs themselves who have suffered for almost five decades from the Israeli harassment, oppression, subversion, and above all military aggression. What made the Arabs lose vast territories of their land in 1967? Isn't it the barbarous Israeli aggression. A most recent example is the large-scale Israeli attacks on Lebanon last April during which the Qana massacre was blatantly perpetrated by the Israeli troops. As security is a need for all the parties in the region this security must be ensured in an equal and balanced way. That was a message addressed by the Cairo summit to Israel and to the world at large.

The Cairo Arab summit addressed a very clear message concerning all the Arabs' adherence to the peace process and to the principles upon which it was launched. The principles of international law and the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425 and the U.S. initiative of land for peace are crystal clear and they constitute the basis for talks in the framework of the Madrid format. This positive approach assuring the continuation of the peace process on the part of the Arab sides is met by further Israeli hardline and intransigence, when the Israelis say they are ready to resume peace talks with Syria without pre-conditions.

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It is a clearcut rejection of the principles of the peace process. Moreover, top Israeli officials echo Netanyahu's rhetoric of no withdrawal from the Golan. Isn't this a pre-condition for talks?

Mr. Christopher has received the Israeli message of the conditions they set for talks which are undoubtedly against the principle of land for peace. Today he will have talks in Cairo, where he will be briefed on the unanimous Arab response to the principles of the peace process, and support for the land-for-peace formula that is still holding hopefully.

Syria: Paper Refutes Netanyahu's 'Allegations'

JN2906092896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "What After the Arab Summit," AL-THAWRAH stresses that just and comprehensive peace, based on international legitimacy, was the Arab summit's strategic option and fundamental pillar. The paper notes that this means that Israel, with its new government, must shoulder its regional and international responsibility. The Israeli Government must either submit to peace, with its known foundations, or renege on its obligations and announce to the world that it rejects all basic requirements of peace. In this case, it would stand against international legitimacy and defy the entire world.

AL-THAWRAH says: There was a consensus on the great importance of the Arab summit and its results. There is also a consensus that the summit — with its various institutions and states — should move to implement the summit's resolutions, particularly those regarding the mechanism of dealing with Israel, and put an end to all the cases through which Israel was able to infiltrate into parts of the Arab body and until it abides by the peace process.

AL-THAWRAH urges the United States to fulfill its role as a superpower and to pressure Israel to implement the resolutions of international legitimacy. The paper adds: The Arabs must utilize their energies and resources and move quickly to take advantage of every moment to serve the peace process and expose Israel and its new, unrestrained government. They must also warn it that such a policy will definitely bring the region back to the cycle of explosions and tension and threaten peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: This is a very difficult phase which the Arabs, as institutions and states, must understand very well and deal with carefully and wisely. We must take advantage of everything that is available to us in our dialogue with the United States on the basis of the peace process. The outcome of the Arab summit qualifies the Arabs to hold a dialogue with the world, with a single voice and a single position, for the first time in years.

In its editorial today, TISHRIN reacts to allegations by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The paper says everybody believes these allegations aim to cover his new policy, which rejects withdrawal from the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, and which aims to sabotage the peace process and evade its principles and foundations.

TISHRIN stresses that Netanyahu's position was a cause of concern for all quarters in the world. This is because Syria is a major partner in the peace process and because there can be no peace in the Middle East without it.

The paper says: Syria has worked for the sake of peace and rescued the peace process from collapse several times. It was also one of the chief organizers of the Arab summit and its resolutions, which call for a genuine peace based on international legitimacy. Israel, meanwhile, turned its back on the peace process and renounced its principles, foundations, and objectives. It also stabbed in the back the U.S. initiative and the U.S. and world efforts to achieve a just peace. Furthermore, it plans to escalate violence and bring the Middle East back to the turmoil of war and conflicts.

The paper asks: Who uses terrorism and adopts it as an official policy? Is it he who calls for achieving the peace of international legitimacy, or he who rejects withdrawal, maintains occupation, advocates settlement activity, and insists on bombarding Lebanon and depriving the Palestinian people of their land and rights and denying them the most basic needs of life?

TISHRIN adds: In fact, Netanyahu is pursuing the terrorism of his predecessor Shamir, who showed hostility to the peace process and who later confessed that he was planning to torpedo it. Netanyahu's extremism went beyond even that of Shamir when he stated his three no's: No to withdrawal, no to the Palestinian state, and no to ending settlement activities.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Netanyahu's positions constitute a flagrant violation of the UN charters, principles, and resolutions. They also constitute a brazen infringement on the Geneva conventions. They undermine the U.S. peace initiative and demonstrate a disdain of international law and an insistence to continue expansion and aggression. Will the world community allow its efforts for Middle East peace to collapse, and will it yield to Netanyahu's terrorism?

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Syria: Netanyahu Blamed for Bringing Peace to 'Point of Collapse'

JN2906143196 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The new Israeli Government has revived the slogans that call for maintaining the occupation, expanding settlement activity, and keeping the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem. It has given this serious position ideological dimensions and has revisited the jargon of the Torah lexicon. Thus, it has stressed work to establish a Greater Israel, disregarding all the consequences of such an undertaking, which can lead to wasting the opportunity for peace and to catastrophic consequences for the region and the world.

It is absolutely clear that the shift toward the extremist right wing in Israel has produced extremist and more radical election campaign and, later, government programs. This was followed by more extremist stands and statements that do not call for optimism at all. Rather, they raise difficult prospects about the fate of the peace process, which seems to be the first victim of this Israeli U- turn, in which the bases of peace are disregarded, the Madrid principles are scrapped, and the facts produced by five years of lengthy deliberations are ignored.

Yet, the Israeli prime minister claimed that he adheres to and loves peace. He called for direct negotiations without preconditions. This is a fallacy that will not hold before the bases and principles of the peace process on which the international community agreed and approved at the Madrid conference and according to which the cosponsors of the peace process make ongoing efforts to advance the peace process. Anyone who demands the discarding of the Madrid terms of reference and the bases of peace and rejects the resolutions of the international legitimacy is the one setting preconditions and planting mines along the road to peace.

Peace cannot make any headway unless the talks proceed according to certain bases and principles. No headway is possible especially if one of the two parties raises the peace-for-peace slogan, thus canceling the land-for-peace principle on which the entire peace process is based, and without which there can be no talk of peace. Anyone who rejects withdrawal from the Golan and occupied Arab territories, who insists on maintaining the occupation of Jerusalem, and who rejects the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is the one who set preconditions and plants obstacles. He does not want the peace process to arrive at its desired objective, represented by establishing a just, comprehensive peace that restores the land and rights to their owners and ensures security and stability for all parties on an equal footing and without any defect in the equation of equitability in everything related to the peace commitments.

Vis-a-vis all this contradiction in the Israeli stand, there is a very clear and consistent Arab position on all the principles of peace, the Madrid bases, and the resolutions of the international legitimacy on which the peace process is based. In the final statement of their comprehensive summit, the Arabs stressed that they want a just, comprehensive peace and that peace for them, in word and in deed, is a strategic option. Peace must be based on the international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions. Peace must remove all manifestations of occupation, restore the land to its owners, and give each party its due rights. This is not a precondition. Anyone who tries to circumvent these bases, ignore those principles, and shirk the resolutions of the international legitimacy is the one who sets preconditions and evades the requirements of peace. Consequently, he is the one to blame for bringing the peace process to the point of collapse.

Undoubtedly, peace is a crucial issue for the people of the region and the world. This issue cannot stand any more dodging or procrastination. If it is just and comprehensive, peace will be in the interest of everybody. But when a certain party tries to ignore the facts and seeks to have both the occupied land and peace and security, it is a sign that the one who is making this demand has not read the developments and events. The true peace that is wanted by, adhered to, and defended by peoples is the just peace that restores all lands and rights to their owners, maintains dignity, and ensures regional stability for the good of peoples of the region and in the interest of the entire world.

Syria: Commentary Claims Netanyahu Policy Harms U.S. Credibility

JN3006181096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The summit of the world's seven richest industrialized nations, which was attended by Russia, made a firm call for the resumption of the Middle East peace talks. These nations called for respecting the principles of the Madrid conference and the land-for-peace formula.

The summit said security cannot be attained without realizing just and comprehensive peace, and that just peace is the real guarantee of security and stability. The summit statement said security was at the center of the

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recent elections campaign in Israel. However, security will remain isolated unless a solid and lasting peace is realized in the region.

For his part, President Bill Clinton said Israel should respect its commitments to the peace process. It is clear that the call made by the seven industrialized nations and Russia was exclusively directed to Israel after the policy of Netanyahu's government caused fears among all international quarters. During his elections campaign, Netanyahu vowed to continue the occupation and hold on to the Syrian Golan and Jerusalem. He also vowed to intensify settlement construction all over the occupied territories, and said the West Bank is part of the so-called land of Israel. Netanyahu did not hesitate to speak repeatedly about violating the agreements concluded with the Palestinians because these agreements conflict with what he called Israel's security. The international community thought Netanyahu would change his positions as soon as he assumed power and that his election promises were mere promises for local consumption. However, the Israeli prime minister repeated his pledges, especially after his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and following the Arab summit in Cairo which emphasized the collective Arab desire to realize just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace formula.

Netanyahu soon began translating his words into deeds. He announced a huge settlement plan in the vicinity of Jerusalem, fabricated a series of lies against Syria, and asked the Zionist lobby to pressure the United States into disregarding its commitments to the peace process and to besiege Syria under the alleged pretext of sponsoring terrorism.

The international press ridiculed Netanyahu's lies against Syria, and viewed them as an exposed attempt to provide a cover for his policy that aims to Judaize the Golan and not to withdraw from it. The British foreign minister said Syria and Lebanon are two main partners, and peace depends on realizing their legitimate interests, which means the restoration of their territories.

The French newspaper LE MONDE commented that Netanyahu is only deceiving himself. At a time when he announced his readiness for unconditional talks with the Arab countries, he stated three conditions that cancel the entire peace process. These conditions are: Holding on to the Golan and Jerusalem and rejecting withdrawal from the West Bank, rejecting establishing a Palestinian state, and intensifying construction of settlements all over the occupied Arab territories.

All those concerned with the success of peace efforts and all world political circles are aware that the Israeli prime minister should cancel most of his government's program if he wants peace, because pursuing this program means ending the peace process. This requires a firm position by the United States in its capacity as the party that launched the peace initiative and because Netanyahu's policy will greatly harm its credibility and reputation in the Middle East and the world.

Netanyahu's lies against Syria, and his attempts to put more pressure on it are refuted by the Syrian positions that are known to the whole world. Syria is a main party in the region and a main partner in the peace process. Syria rescued this process from collapse several times.

While demonstrating its solidarity with the Arabs in all Arab countries, Syria declared, along with other Arabs, a clear position that adheres to peace. Syria always works for enhancing solidarity and joint Arab action. He who works for peace, cannot be a terrorist. The terrorist is the one who torpedoes the peace process and proceeds to destroy the Palestinian people, usurp their rights and territories, and launches brutal aggressions against the Lebanese people.

The only result of Netanyahu's policy is to place Israel in a position of defiance against the international legitimacy, which will anger this community that exerted relentless efforts to end war in the Middle East. This community is now watching how the Israeli Government is planning to abort these efforts and return the region to the verge of explosion in order to realize its aggressive and expansionist objectives that conflict with the simplest international laws, the Geneva Convention, and the UN resolutions.

Syria: Press Views G-7 Statement, Israeli 'Deception Campaigns'

JN3006080096 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN highlights in its commentary the call of the Group of Seven and Russia on the parties involved in the Middle East peace process to adhere to their obligations within the context of the land-for-peace principle. Under the headline "The Industrial Countries' Message to Israel," the paper says: Only a just, comprehensive, lasting, and equitable peace can guarantee security for all the countries of the region. Within this framework, the Group of Seven called for resuming peace talks between Syria and Lebanon on the one hand and Israel on the other. This is an inseparable part of the dynamism of peace which should be maintained.

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TISHRIN goes on to say: Clearly, the message of the Group of Seven and Russia was exclusively addressed to Israel, because Syria is committed to the foundations of Madrid and the Security Council resolutions. It actively participated in the Cairo summit, which asserted that peace is a strategic option for all Arabs and that the framework and principles of the Madrid conference cannot be overlooked.

The paper notes: The new Israeli prime minister led his electoral campaign on the basis of the three no's; namely, no to withdrawal from the Golan, Jerusalem, and the West Bank; no to stopping violence in the occupied territories; and no to the Palestinian state. This confirms that Israel is not committed to the foundations of a just and comprehensive peace. This angered all the international circles which believed that this position shirks and undermines the peace process.

The newspaper maintains that the fabrication and lies campaign the Israeli prime minister staged against Syria is an exposed attempt aiming to isolate Syria and impose a siege on it. It asserts: Everybody was aware of this position. Hence came the clear position of the G-7 and Russia on the peace process in the region. It is clear which party places obstacles to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Only a just and comprehensive peace can accomplish security for all. Otherwise, the region will remain a hotbed of tension and explosion. The international community does not accept this situation, because the stability of peace in the world and the Middle East is interrelated.

In its commentary, the newspaper AL-BA'TH tackles the deception campaigns being launched against Syria. It says these attempts are no longer new or strange to Arabs or the world public, who clearly distinguish between the lies and fabrications and the reality that cannot be eclipsed, regardless of the means one may use or attempts to turn the right to false and vice versa. It says there is nothing new about these campaigns because attempts to accuse Syria of being involved in terrorism were made during the past years. Those who made these charges reaped nothing but failure. Syria challenged, through leader al-Asad, those who made these accusations to present any evidence substantiating their claims.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria has never bothered to respond to these baseless fabrications. It tried and was the first to propose the idea of convening an international conference to differentiate between the right of peoples to resist occupation and terrorist operations which are wholly condemned.

The paper asserts that the honorable positions of Syria regarding commitment to the pan-Arab rights would certainly provoke the Likud government, which seeks to undermine these positions and abrogate the pan-Arab right to serve Israel's interests. It points out that what irritated Netanyahu even more was the final communique of the Cairo summit on condemning terrorism and supporting the legitimate resistance of occupation. AL-BA'TH says that the Europeans focused on this point to such a degree that their position was identical to the Arab viewpoint. The final statement of the G-7 summit emphasized what was underscored by the final communique of Cairo summit.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Israel's accusations and fabrications are totally rejected. The world has not yet forgotten its terrorist massacres, the last of which was in Qana.

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Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Rabbani Delivers Address at Hekmatyar Inauguration

LD2806221396 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1612 GMT 27 Jun 96

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at oath-taking ceremony appointing Golboddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hezb-e Eslami, as prime minister in Kabul on 26 June — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Praise be to Almighty God. Esteemed brothers, dear guests, peace and the blessing of God be upon you.

I regard your participation in this holy gathering as an important step for the restoration of peace in our war-torn country, Afghanistan. I welcome the arrival and participation of you — guests and friends who have come from friendly and fraternal countries. I hope this gathering will be a new start toward the consolidation of peace and security and to end the fighting in your fraternal country of Afghanistan which bravely stood up and fought the most powerful country for 14 years. [passage omitted]

I hope for the participation of you brothers, who did not hesitate to assist the people of Afghanistan during the period of jihad [against the Soviet Union], that once again today you can assist the vehicle of fraternity and peace. [passage omitted]

Today, once again, history is a witness to the fact that our nation is the victim of foreign aggression and shameful conspiracies. [words indistinct]

The inter-Afghan understanding and peace process is once again taking shape and continuing to progress. We recall with appreciation the efforts of all friendly and fraternal countries who cooperated with us in the process of peace in the most difficult circumstances. Of course, the hard work of Mr. Borujerdi [Iranian deputy foreign minister], who is sitting in front of me, is appreciated.

The Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] of Afghanistan and I, have decided to start the work of construction, with all our other brothers, to end the crisis in our country and to bring an immediate end to the fighting.

[Word indistinct] We call on all groups wherever they are and in whichever trench they are taking up a position. We ask them all; all those groups who as onlookers and far away from the pain and trouble of the nation watch events from a distance; we ask these brothers to hold join hands and cooperate with each other to find a solution to the crisis. We call on the groups who are in the trenches fighting not to let our strong youths shed their blood and let our ruined villages receive yet more damage. And [they] should not let the monster of war and ignorance trouble our nation further than this. [words indistinct] Others should come also so that we can join hands and participate in this peace process.

Now a new stage of history has begun in our country. At this stage participating and sharing power does not mean gaining concessions. In the present circumstances those who accepted responsibility have not gained concessions but are ready for devotion. [passage omitted]

Once again I call on all groups and parties to join this praiseworthy vehicle of peace. Neighboring countries, in particular the Islamic countries of Pakistan and Iran, whose interest surely lies in the restoration of peace in Afghanistan [words indistinct] to cooperate with us.

We call on Islamic countries, above all the friendly and fraternal country —Saudi Arabia — who seriously cooperated with our nation during the period of jihad to once again in the present circumstances play a constructive role in the program of reconstruction. We call on all friendly and fraternal countries, wherever they are, we call on the United Nations and the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] to take serious action with regard to the peace move in the country which has been started by the Afghans themselves. They should not allow those who sabotage peace to dip their hands yet further in the blood of our tormented nation.

We call on General Dostam to join the peace move so that all highways are opened and no road be left closed.

There were countries who were always talking about a broad-based government. Today the world public sees this as an actual reality. I hope those countries can now begin their cooperation with the process of peace, the restoration of peace and cessation of war in our country. [passage omitted]

Those who embarked on intervention should now realize that nothing has, nor will, come to their hand. I hope they now test the peace process which is for the good of all. [passage omitted]

I wish Brother Hekmatyar's success in the crucial responsibility which he has undertaken today. [words indistinct]

As to the massacre which was carried out in Kabul city by the mercenary group called Taleban, we resolutely condemn it. We offer prayers for the souls of those who were martyred in today's massacre. We express sympathy to those injured and to the families of the martyrs and injured.

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Once again we call on the government of Pakistan, which played a major role during the jihad period, to completely close the bases of the terrorist group called Taleban in their country — in Peshawar and Quetta. [words indistinct] They are not really the Taleban group. They are the most dangerous elements and most dangerous enemies of Islam and the nation of Afghanistan. These rockets fired today were not by the Taleb students but fired by those merciless officers [words indistinct].

These corrupt officers have targeted every point in the city. Under the present circumstances, in which all of us are seeking peace, I hope that all the friendly and fraternal countries — Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, India, the Russian Federation, the fraternal country of Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, and other countries, as well as all friendly parties — esteemed Akram Zaki, most respected personality Mahmud Khan Achekzai, the respected representative of [Pakistan's] Jamaat-i Islami Party, esteemed Qazi Hussain Ahmad — and the editor of the WAHDAT newspaper and other friends and brothers, the representative from the Islamic Republic of Sudan and the representative of our fraternal country, Saudi Arabia: To all of you I express appreciation. [sentence as heard]

I hope at this stage of development, which is a new start in the history of Afghanistan, that all the fraternal countries can extend their cooperation with our persecuted nation and assist us.

Another point that I want to add at the end is: I expect Pakistan's ulema [religious experts] to abandon the group called Taleb; they are not genuinely Taleb [religious student]. They are terrorist elements having no other intention except destruction and terrorism.

Verily, success comes from Allah; the peace and blessing of God be upon you.

Afghanistan: Rabbani, Opposition Hold Talks on Joining Government

BK2906112896 Hong Kong AFP in English 1053 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Report by Marc Lavine]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, June 29 (AFP) — Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani has held crucial talks with a group of top opposition leaders in the hope of luring them into the Kabul government, officials said Saturday. [29 June]

The move was "extremely significant" and came just two days after Golboddin Hekmatyar, one of Afghanistan's main opposition leaders, joined the government as its new prime minister, effectively transforming the country's political scene.

"The president and his team, which included one of Hekmatyar's top officials, were invited to take part in negotiations on the possibility of other opposition parties joining the government," a source close to Rabbani told AFP.

Afghanistan has been ripped apart by four years of civil war which started after the fall of the last communist government here in 1992.

The president left for the eastern city of Jalalabad on Friday [28 June] after receiving the invitation from the chiefs of the powerful neutral force which controls the area, the Shoora Nangahar, and other Afghan opposition leaders, officials said.

The delegation included Wahidullah Sabawoon, Hekmatyar's intelligence chief. Sabawoon is tipped to take over as defence minister next week under the May 24 accord signed between Hekmatyar and Rabbani.

The president held talks with former mojahedin leaders Yunus Khalis, head of a splinter group of Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami, Mohammed Nabi, as well as elder Afghan statesmen Pir Sayed Ahmad Gailani and ex-president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, they said.

The delegation is expected back in the capital later Saturday.

The move is part of a concerted effort by Kabul to draw the country's other warring factions into the government, in a bid to boost its legitimacy and unite war-torn Afghanistan, analysts here said.

"For the first time ever this government appears to be gaining legitimacy, recognition and influence in the eyes of the other warring groups," one analyst said.

"The next important steps are to bring the Hezb-e Wahdat and General (Abdol Rashid) Dostam into the fold," he added, referring to the Shiite Moslem group of Karim Khalili and to Afghanistan's most powerful faction leader who controls the north of the country.

Hekmatyar is expected to travel to Khalili's base in the central province of Bamyan and to Dostum's headquarters in Mazar-e Sharif within the next week, sources in the prime minister's office said.

"He is hoping to hold serious and high level talks with the leaders of the two parties on their terms and condition for uniting with the central government," a source said.

The planned visit for talks with the factional leaders — Hekmatyar's former allies in the Supreme Co-ordination

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Council, the anti-government alliance he helped found — indicates that negotiations with them were probably already well underway, the analyst said.

Dostam and Khalili's factions are now the two most prominent opposition groups not to be part of the government, with the exception of the Islamic Taleban militia which is currently besieging Kabul.

Meanwhile, Hekmatyar was at his new Kabul office on Saturday, settling down to his first full day's work since being installed as premier, aides told AFP.

"He has moved in and is receiving official guests at the prime ministry," one said.

The former mojahedin resistance groups which ousted the country's Soviet invaders have been locked in a bloody battle for power and influence, a battle which has always focused on the battered capital, Kabul.

The Taleban, which controls about half of Afghansitan, rose up out of the turmoil of the civil war in 1994, pledging to end the factional fighting and bring security, peace and unity to the country.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Prime Minister Warns Army Against Political Meddling

BK2906121596 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 29 (AFP) — Bangladesh's new Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed on Saturday warned senior defence officials not to meddle in politics, as she tries to become only the second elected leader in the country's short history to serve out a full term.

"Any kind of grouping or lobbying existing in the armed forces will be removed and a guideline upholding the national interest" will be issued to the forces, she was quoted as saying by the official BSS news agency.

The military has a long history of interference in politics here, including the failed May 20 revolt that led to the sacking of the former army chief lieutenant general, Muhammad Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim.

Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas justified this week the sacking of Nasim and 13 other officers for their allged involvement in the failed revolt, which came during the election campaign that eventually saw Sheikh Hasina gain power.

"Many people made harsh remarks that my actions were aimed at influencing the June 12 general election...today their apprehension proved untrue," he said in a televised address hours after Sheikh Hasina was sworn in as the premier.

The military ruled Bangladesh directly or indirectly between 1975 and 1990. The failed military revolt in May had raised fears that the army was seeking to derail the June election.

The prime minister's remarks came as the armed forces officially welcomed her to office — 21 years after her father, the country's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed in a military coup.

Defence officials said Sheikh Hasina was given a guard of honour by the three services at the National Parade Ground.

Sheikh Hasina, also the defence minister, placed wreaths at a memorial dedicated to soldiers killed in the 1971 independence war against Pakistan, briefly visited her Armed Forces Division office, and later joined senior officials at the Army Headquarters.

The premier, whose Awami League under her father led Bangladesh to independence from Pakistan in 1971, also praised the role of the armed forces in various United Nations peace-keeping missions.

Rahman and most of his family were killed in the 1975 military coup, but the premier and her younger sister survived as they were abroad at the time.

Sheikh Hasina was sworn in as prime minister June 23, after leading her Awami League to victory in this month's hotly-contested general elections.

The army, which took a back-seat after the 1990 pro-democracy campaign, is still believed to be a major factor in country's murky politics.

Bangladesh: Hasina Addresses Military Officials, Promises Modernization

BK2906162596 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that to implement the dreams of the Father of the Nation [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman], the main objective of her government is to forget past bitterness and build up a trained, disciplined, and efficient military. She was addressing senior officials of the Army, Navy, and the Air Force at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka today.

The prime minister said any kind of grouping or lobbying in the armed forces will be eliminated, and that the military will be provided with a guideline to uphold national interests by keeping in mind the people's hopes and aspirations. Sheikh Hasina said her government

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will soon take some measures for the welfare of the armed forces. These will include modernizing the armed forces, providing them with them the necessary equipment and training, and removing all kinds of difficulties for their personal well-being. The prime minister categorically said that the promotion policy for the armed forces will be formed on the basis of their professional efficiency, personal character, and social behavior.

Earlier, when the prime minister arrived at the headquarters, she was received by Lieutenant General Mohammad Mahbubur Rahman, chief of Army Staff; Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam, chief of Naval Staff; Air Vice Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed, chief of Air Staff; and Major General M.S.A. Bhuiyan, principal staff officer of Armed Forces Division. A well-equipped contingent of the Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Force presented the guard of honor. Sheikh Hasina inspected the guard and took salute.

Later, the prime minister placed floral wreaths on Shikha Anirban and stood in silence for a few minutes in honor of the memory of the members of the armed forces who were martyred during the War of Independence of 1971.

Bangladesh: Hasina Outlines Policies, Invites BNP To Join Government

BK3006162296 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the people to give her their full support in establishing a transparent and acceptable government for the overall development of the country. She was addressing a mammoth post-election public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka this afternoon. Sheikh Hasina said that she is bound to rule the country, not as the master of the people, but as the government of the people. The prime minister said that the objective of the present government is to establish an exploitation-free society. She said measures will be taken to establish peace and harmony in the society after freeing it from terrorism and anarchy. She again appealed to the terrorists to surrender their illegal arms and return to normal life.

Recalling the struggle launched by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Father of the Nation, for the freedom of the people, the prime minister said this struggle will again be intensified from today. Referring to administrative reforms, she said a people-oriented administration will be established in the country. She said the work to separate the executive from the judiciary will also be implemented. The prime minister again reiterated that the state-run radio, television, and news agency will be given autonomy.

Sheikh Hasina said the farmers will be given subsidy so that they can work for the development of the agriculture sector. She said steps will be taken to recommission closed and sick industries. Arrangements will also be taken for self-employment of the women's community.

Referring to the foreign policy of her government, the prime minister said the basis of this policy would be friendship with all and malice toward none. She reiterated her determination to resolve the Ganges River water problem.

Sheikh Hasina said that Parliament is the proper place to raise all problems and seek their solutions. She said steps will be taken to ascertain the amount of assets owned by the ministers so that nobody can misuse government property.

Turning to her government of national consensus, the prime minister said that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, BNP, can join this government if they desire to do so. Our correspondent reports that people from all walks of life attended this meeting despite inclement weather. Several ministers and leaders of the Awami League also addressed the public meeting.

Bangladesh: JP Official Quits, Protests Support to New Government

BK3006123596 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, June 30 (AFP) — Moudud Ahmed, one of the top leaders of jailed former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad's Jatiya Party (JP), Sunday announced his surprise resignation over the party's support to the new government.

"The unilateral decision (by Ershad) to extend unconditional support to the Awami League (of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed) and accept a cabinet post ...without any discussion in the JP presidium has endangered the party's existence and future," Ahmed told a press conference.

Ahmed, a barrister and former vice president under Ershad, lost in the June 12 general elections along with several other party heavyweights.

He was one of the key players in the long opposition campaigns that brought down prime minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government in March.

The JP, which emerged as the third largest party with 32 seats in the 300-seat parliament immediately extended

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unconditional support to Hasina's Awami League which with 147 seats was short of an absolute majority.

Political analysts said Ahmed's departure could be the first sign of a possible crack in the JP with MPs and party leaders publicly divided over whether they should sit in the treasury or opposition benches when parliament meets on July 14.

Ahmed declined to say if he would join another party.

India

India: Gowda Reportedly Did Not Receive Clinton Letter on CTBT

BK3006161996 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Jun 96 p 9

[Report by Chidanand Rajghatta]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Bill Clinton has written to Prime Minister Deve Gowda seeking India's cooperation in concluding the global nuclear test ban treaty.

The President's letter was dispatched to New Delhi last week through diplomatic channels and was to have been delivered to Gowda only this week by the US Ambassador, Frank Wisner.

Clinton's letter to Gowda was sent around the same time as his missive to Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in which he sought Pakistan's support for the comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT).

But while the US has urged Islamabad not to link its commitment on signing the treaty to India's stand, in the case of New Delhi, the White House is believed to have addressed its concerns over the demand for a time-bound nuclear disarmament.

Pakistani officials confirmed that Bhutto had received Clinton's letter, while Indian Embassy sources were aware of a similar letter to Gowda but were not sure if it had been delivered to him yet.

Curiously, sources say the delivery of the letter may not have been delayed for nearly a week because South Block was chary of receiving a missive so close to the deadline for agreeing on the treaty June 28.

"Sure there is a lot of diplomatic gamesmanship going on in relation to the test ban negotiations," the sources told THE INDIAN EXPRESS.

Now, with the deadline having passed and the Conference on Disarmament having ended inconclusively, Gowda can presumably respond to the US President with greater circumspection.

Analysts here say though the conference in Geneva had ended in a deadlock — with India being blamed largely for the impasse — the US will use the next month, during which the text of the treaty is being circulated in various world capitals, to bear down on New Delhi.

"It's is not the end of the world ... it is just a temporary setback and we are still very close to achieving the treaty," arms control expert Michael Krepon of the Stimson Centre said.

"We anticipate even greater pressure now, particularly here in Washington," a key Indian diplomat acknowledged.

To circumvent the pressure, New Delhi, in fact has gone to the extraordinary length on Thursday [27 June] of withdrawing its offer to host seismic stations in India to monitor nuclear tests. The gambit is aimed at dissociating itself from the treaty and avoid being made a scapegoat.

At present, the treaty would only come into effect if it was signed by 37 countries which have agreed to provide facilities to monitor nuclear tests. This would automatically imply the Nuclear Five and the Threshold Three, including India, which are among the 37 countries which had agreed to monitor testing and which are mentioned in two appendices. By declaring that it will not provide monitoring stations and demanding to be struck off appendices 1A and 2B, which list countries that had agreed to provide facilities, New Delhi is giving up what virtually amounts to a veto power. This move also signals that India does not want to hold up the treaty if other countries want to go ahead with it.

"It's a clever way of opting out ... of getting out of a trap. But I am not sure if this will help India escape the stigma of being a spoiler," one analyst said.

The US, however, identified Britain and Russia also as spoilers who have taken cover behind India. Washington would not mind the treaty coming into effect without India and is expected to devote its energies in this direction over the next month.

India: Foreign Minister Interviewed on CTBT, U.S. Ties

BK3006151296 Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 28 Jun 96 p 5

[Interview with Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral by unidentified THE TELEGRAPH correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [THE TELEGRAPH] Now that India has decided not to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), what will be the next step ?

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[Gujral] As far as we are concerned, negotiations are going on in Geneva. We have made our position clear. Having done so, we are watching how the world powers react. That is why our ambassador continues to participate in the discussions.

[THE TELEGRAPH] The US thinks India might still change its mind on CTBT.

[Gujral] Let us see. Generalised statements does not mean anything. Naturally we will respond to the situation as it develops. This is why we have not walked out. As a matter of tradition, Indian diplomacy has never walked out of any international forum. We have never slammed the door on negotiations. We feel that in the context of the post-Cold War era particularly, talks must never be closed.

[THE TELEGRAPH] India has been insisting on a provision for a timeframe. Does it mean that we stick to our position if it is not included, or is there chance of compromise?

[Gujral] Timeframe is not an abstract formulation. The main point would be to ask ourselves, does the world feel comfortable with the mounting heap of nuclear arms and their additional sophistication. Therefore when we refer to a timeframe, we want people to understand whether the future of the world is dismal or hopeful.

[THE TELEGRAPH] India has not carried out a nuclear test since 1974. What does it mean when you talk about India keeping its nuclear options open?

[Gujral] It means that we do not decide on our arms in the abstract. What type of defence preparation India should have is born out of security perceptions and the threat perception. So when we talk of keeping our nuclear options, it means we preserve the sovereign right of the country to look after its security.

[THE TELEGRAPH] Do we expect pressure from any quarter for our present stand?

[Gujral] There is only one pressure and that is my commitment to my country. It is our responsibility to see that India's security is adequately cared for. The foremost responsibility of any government is to see that under the circumstances, the security and defence of the country are not compromised.

[THE TELEGRAPH] Will the thrust of your foreign policy be on improving India's relations with its neighbours?

[Gujral] That is, of course, the tradition of India. We do care more for our relations with our neighbours. But, it has become more important since the end of the Cold War. What is called globalisation, in reality, means that regional cooperation has come to the fore whether you think in terms of European Union, or the ASEAN. When we talk of cooperation in terms of our neighbours in the SAARC [South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation], we also try to be in step with world movements.

[THE TELEGRAPH] You also talk of expanding SAARC membership.

[Gujral] What I mean is that our SAARC partners might consider the profitability of bringing in Myanmar [Burma] and Afghanistan and build cooperative relations with central Asian nations. That would enlarge the working potential and we would become the most important market the world over.

[THE TELEGRAPH] You have spoken of adopting the Indo-China model in improving relations with Pakistan. But with Islamabad's insistence on solving the Kashmir issue first, do you think this will work?

[Gujral] We are not talking in terms of abstracts. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has written to our Prime Minister and me, to which we have responded. We have made our intentions known.

[THE TELEGRAPH] How are our relations with the US?

[Gujral] One point must be kept in mind that our relationship with the US is always multi-dimensional. When I look at overall relations with the US, it gives satisfaction and happiness. We cooperate in several international fora. It will be a mistake to believe that if we differ on some issues, it will sour our relations.

[THE TELEGRAPH] Will the stand taken by India on the CTBT not strain our ties with the US?

[Gujral] What we have said on CTBT is in context of our national security. That is how we look at it and I think every friendly country should appreciate this.

India: Gujral—Economic Threats Not To Change CTBT Stand

BK2806121196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has categorically stated that it will not submit to any pressure tactics by the nuclear powers on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. In an interview to our correspondent N. Bhadranair in New Delhi, the external affairs minister said security of the nation is of utmost importance, and even threats of economic sanctions cannot deter India to change its stand.

Rejecting the CTBT in its present form, Mr. I.K. Gujral asked the nuclear states to first stop all kinds of tests

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and set a timeframe to ban the weaponry if they want to make the treaty credible. Mr. Gujral said when nuclear weapons states are around, India cannot be asked to give up its option.

Reacting to the criticism of Russia and Britain to the Indian stand on the treaty, the external affairs minister said these countries want to put the onus on India and get out of the treaty.

India: Gujral on Keeping Nuclear Option Open

BK2806171896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1550 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Interview with Indian External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral by correspondent N. Bhadra Nair; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Nair] There is a lot of talk for and against India's signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT]. Now India has returned the facilities for international [nuclear test] monitoring services. What was the consideration that we in India deciding not to sign it, total disarmament or national security?

[Gujral] First of all, we must keep in mind the fact that what is the CTBT about. From [Jawaharlal] Nehru's days, we have all been feeling in India that a stage must come when the world can be free of nuclear weapons. And, from 1954 onwards now, we have been consistently taking this stand, and that continues to be our stand. We are keen that the tests all over the world should be stopped. It is bad for environment, and it is bad for the human being's existence.

The CTBT treaty as it is drafted now does not meet any objectives it pretends to. The pretension is that, if it is a Comprehensive Test Ban, as the name implies, perhaps it will be the banning of the tests. It does not. It only bans some sort of a explosion of weapons only and not other things. Secondly, now the technology has come to a stage that you can now polish your weapons, improve your quality, go on adding without tests. And there were open tests that way. So, what we have been fighting and insisting in the [disarmament] committee was that: Please make it more credible so that the world gets a feeling that we really mean that we are banning the tests. This is one dimension. Secondly, we have been saying that ultimately what is happening is that five nuclear powers have got heaps of nuclear weapons which are very dangerous for humanity, that a program must be made whereby these nuclear weapons can be reduced and cut to zero in specified time.

So, we were asking them to let us move by when you can do it — 10 years, 5 years, 20 years, some specific program. They refused to do that. Also, you see in the meantime that tests are continuing. China is even now testing. France has recently tested. America is doing laboratory tests. So, therefore, all this looks like a very charade sort of a thing, and they want to pretend they are not doing it, and that is what we are saying. And, we are saying if it is this type of treaty, then we are sorry, we cannot sign it.

[Nair] In what way will the country benefit by not signing the treaty?

[Gujral] The country has two dimensions. One, of course, we wanted was a debate in the world as a whole, then we wanted a genuine test ban. Secondly, we also want to tell the world that we want to really cut the weapons — nuclear weapons — and we are for this. Secondly, from the country's security point of view, if nuclear weapons powers are around us, we cannot be asked to give up our options. What is an option? Option basically means that as we perceive threat from time to time, then we respond accordingly. If somebody in our neighborhood buys high-speed airplanes, then we have to think of that. And, if you have seen our neighborhood, China particularly, and Indian Ocean, it is absolutely riddled with the nuclear weapons, then we may not make the weapon now, but surely we will do it whenever our security so demands. That is really the need of the country.

[Nair] Do you think that not signing the treaty will enhance India's national security?

[Gujral] That is only way of conserving India's security — if we do not sign. If we sign, then our option is gone, and, therefore, even when we are threatened some times, we are not able to respond and we can be blackmailed. And, that is why we are preserving our option.

[Nair] We have been keeping our nuclear option open for the last 25 years. Is that sufficient to give confidence to our armed forces, in particular, and the people in general — just with an option but without creating the actual capability?

[Gujral] You see, the main point in this is something which is basically a situation which is examined from time to time, and one thing I can assure you as a person in charge of the country's affairs that we have been constantly examining at one stage we need what. And there are certain dimensions which naturally cannot be discussed publicly. But I can assure the country on one point: that we are very conscious of our security responsibilities, and we will respond as a threat when it develops [as heard] or as a threat is perceived.

[Nair] Russia has reportedly stated that India's stand on the treaty is not acceptable to it and would not let India

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off the treaty. Britain has also criticized the stand. What is your reaction to this?

[Gujral] You see, Russia is also one of the five powers which have nuclear weapons. So this is a nuclear weapons club. They all talk the same language. We have very good relations with Russia otherwise, but on this particular issue we cannot agree with them.

[Nair] Do you think that this shadowboxing by Russia and Britain have some other, maybe hidden reasons?

[Gujral] You see, they have their own problems also. Because, for instance, one of the things about which Russia and China both are worried is the inspection on site. So, therefore, they are also wanting an excuse to get out of it. Because they have not been (?doing) the draft — others can force and go in their country and examine whether they are doing something or not. So their own security is threatened. And sometimes they think that these are excuse for us. [sentence as heard] So, therefore, put on India's account and get out of it.

[Nair] Suppose the country has to face stiff opposition from signatories to the treaty on any other front, either political or economic. How are we going to face such an eventuality?

[Gujral] Ultimately, the country's security is the responsibility of the country itself, and one doesn't hold a referendum or referendums for that. One doesn't go about asking for votes on this. As we see our own security situation, we will respond; whether we are popular or unpopular, that does not matter.

[Nair] My question is specific: in the event of economic sanctions from the developed nations to pressurize India to sign the treaty?

[Gujral] In the event of India not signing, if some steps are taken against us, we will respond equally. Main point is the security comes first, everything else second. What is the use of having an economy if security is threatened, and we cannot open more workshops here and more factories here and people come and have economic relations because they want to have Indian market. They are doing any favor to us. So, therefore, we need not be nervous about it.

[Nair] Thank you, thank you very much, Sir.

[Gujral] You are welcome.

India: Nuclear Powers Reportedly Warned Delhi Might 'Wreck' CTBT

BK2806164396 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 28 Jun 96 p 2

[Report by Jyoti Malhotra]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India is believed to have warned the nuclear powers in Geneva, hell-bent on coercing New Delhi into signing the comprehensive test ban treaty, [CTBT] that it might even "wreck" the treaty if the text did not finally address its concerns.

Ministry of external affairs sources said India's ambassador Arundhati Ghose at the conference on disarmament (CD) in Geneva told a closed-door meeting some days ago that India "would hold up a consensus" if the final text insisted on forcing India to comply with any clauses it did not want to.

Ghose's statement implied that India would not hesitate in wrecking the treaty if its name, for example, continued to be part of a list of 37 countries with monitoring stations on its soil that must sign the treaty.

"India has been warning the nuclear powers all week that it would exercise its sovereign right not to sign in case the treaty did not meet with our objectives," the sources said.

But ministry sources said it was likely that the treaty text would be amended to keep India out, rather than having no treaty at all.

Following up on Ghose's warning, India gave further notice it would not participate in a discriminatory CTBT when, in a letter on Wednesday, [26 June] it told the chairman of the CD that it would "no longer be able to maintain its offer of CTBT monitoring facilities".

But diplomatic sources here indicated that they would like to keep the pressure up on India to sign the CTBT. India's name might be taken off the list of 37 countries with monitoring facilities, but it might be replaced with another clause that sought the signature of all plutonium-producing countries —which would automatically include India — who must sign the treaty.

Ministry sources reiterated India "could not be forced to become part of a treaty if the treaty does not address our concerns. If I don't want to be part of a team I cannot forced to play," one source said.

A ministry statement yesterday said India had told the CD to in fact "delete" all references to monitoring facilities located in India from the treaty text.

"Our response is in keeping with the Indian statement on June 20 indicating that India would not be able

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to subscribe to the CTBT in its present form," the statement said.

India: Portfolios of New Ministers Announced

BK2906162996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The portfolios of the new ministers have been announced, while the portfolios of some other ministers have been changed.

Mr. Indrajit Gupta is the new home minister, while Chaturanan Mishra is the agriculture minister. Mr. Jeneshwar Mishra gets Water Resources, Mr. Srikant Jena Parliament Affairs and Tourism, and Mr. Birendra Prasad Baishya Steel and Mines. Mr. Arunachalam, who was earlier urban development minister, has been shifted to the Ministry of Labor. Mr. Beni Prasad Verma will hold independent charge of Communications and Mr. R.L. Jalappa of Textiles. Mr. Ramakant Khalap will be the minister for law, justice, and company affairs. Mr. Seshram Ola will hold independent charge of Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Professor Y.K. (Alagh) will be the minister of planning and program implementation. He will also look after science an technology. Mr. Dilip Kumar Ray will be minister of state for animal husbandry with independent charge. Mrs. Kanti Singh will be the new minister for coal and Mr. Salim Iqbal Sherwani minister for health and family welfare. Mr. S.R. Balasubramaniam will be the minister of state in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pension. Mr. Danushkodi R. Adityan will be the minister of state in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Mr. Muhi Ram Saikia gets human resource development and will look after the department of education. Dr. U. Venkateswaralu has been shifted to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment. He will also have an additional charge of parliamentary affairs.

India: Union Cabinet Expanded, CPI Leaders Included

BK2806125696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fourteen more ministers were inducted into the Deve Gowda ministry today at a brief ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house], bringing the total strength of the ministry to 35.

Those sworn in included five ministers of cabinet rank — Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. Chaturanan Misra of the CPI [Communist Party of India], Mr. Shrikant Jena of Janata Dal, Mr. Virendra Prasad Vaishya of the AGP [Asom Gana Parishad] and Mr. Janeshwar Mishra of the Samajwadi Party.

The ministers of state sworn in were: Mr. S.R. Balasubramaniam, Mr. B. B. Ramaiah, Mr. Danushkodi Adityan, Mr. Dilip Ray, Mr. R.L. Jalappa, Mr. M. R. Saikia, Mr. Ramakant D. Khalap, Mr. Seshram Ola, and Mr. Y.K. Alak.

This is the first time that any Left party has joined the central ministry in India since independence.

Iran

Iran: Velayati Refutes Israeli Allegations on Terrorism

LD2806143596 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jun 27 (IRNA) — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here on Thursday [27 June] again refuted allegations of Iran's involvement in the bomb blast in Saudi Arabia at the American military base in Al-Khobar.

Speaking to reporters after the end of the tripartite ministerial talks involving Iran, Ukraine and Turkmenistan, Velayati said "Iran is the chief victim of terrorism."

The Islamic Republic of Iran opposses any kind of terrorist act, he added.

Answering a reporter on Israel's attempts to link Iran to the bomb blast, he pointed out that on Wednesday [26 June] the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman gave a curt reply to the baseless Zionist allegations which were provided by american backers.

"As far as we know those who are ruling occupied Palestine today have a long record of terrorism for giving shape to their concept of a terrorist government on occupied Palestinian soil," said the Iranian foreign minister.

Elaborating on Israeli crimes in Lebanon, he said the Zionist regime indulges on a routine basis in kidnappings and bombardment of residential areas of Lebanon.

Iran: Khonsari Refutes Accusation on Involvement in Bombing

JN2806165796 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1550 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Kazem Khonsari, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from "The Week's Event" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Khonsari] In this regard, I repeat that the Islamic Republic of Iran has nothing

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do whatsoever with the recent bombing that took place in Saudi Arabia three days ago. This was also clear in the bombing that took place several months ago, which also targeted the U.S. presence in the region. In fact, despite our clear stand toward the U.S. presence in the region and our disagreement with some neighbors over this issue, we emphasize that we do not have any desire to disrupt relations with Saudi Arabia. Nor do we seek instability in Saudi Arabia. The Israeli or U.S. accusation leveled at us is only an attempt to justify and to cover their failure to achieve their ill-omened objectives in the region. We in Iran are victims of terrorism. We do not support terrorism. As you know, these days mark the anniversary of the martyrdom of the leading men of the revolution who were martyred during a counterrevolutionary terrorist operation.

[Correspondent] How does Iran view the bombing operations against the U.S. military presence in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia? How do you analyze the background, dimensions, and the causes of these operations?

[Khonsari] To the best of my knowledge, those who perpetrated the recent bombing are still unknown. However, some evidence shows that it was done by Saudi opposition members who carried out a similar bombing last year against the U.S. military presence in Saudi Arabia too. They threatened retaliation over the execution of those who were accused of perpetrating the previous bombing. Undoubtedly, the Saudi opposition strongly opposes the extensive U.S. presence in the holy land. What I deduce from a statement attributed to French President Jacques Chirac yesterday, to the effect that it is necessary to reduce the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf, is that the people of the region do not tolerate such a presence and believe that the continuation of this presence is against their interests, especially since this presence is being entrenched one day after another. The solution is ending this presence and achieving stability and security in the region through rapprochement and fraternal cooperation among the region's states. We in Iran are ready, as we have said all along, for such constructive cooperation.

Iran: Report Claims Iran Engaged in Assassinations, Terrorism

MS2806110496 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 28 Jun 96 p 16

[Report by Christopher Lockwood: "Iran 'Is Stepping Up Its Campaign of Murder'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Iranian government is engaged in a concerted campaign of assassination and terrorism, a report published by Britain's Parliamentary Human Rights Group has claimed.

It calls for sanctions against Teheran and the scrapping of Europe's "critical dialogue" with the regime, which it likens to appeasement.

According to Middle East analysts, in the first five months of this year the Iranians carried out 11 assassinations, more than in the whole of the previous year.

The report documents more than 150 attempts on the lives of Iranian dissidents living abroad in 21 different countries, including Britain. More than 350 people have been killed or injured in these attacks.

The pace of terror appears to be increasing. The report notes that more than two thirds of the attacks have occurred in the last seven years, during the rule of President Rafsanjani, and only one third in the 10-year rule of Ayatollah Khomeyni that preceded it. This tends to give the lie to the view that President Rafsanjani's government is either reformist, or significantly more pro-Western than that of his predecessor.

Iranian exiles argue that the President is now effectively powerless, with authority increasingly located in the hands of Ayatollah Khameyni, Iran's religious leader.

Observers also believe that the regime is becoming increasingly nervous as opposition to it grows, both inside and outside the country.

The Iranian economy is in a profound slump, and the country, dubbed the world's premier terrorist state by Washington, is more isolated than it has ever been.

The report notes that Iran has articulated for itself the doctrine of *Velaya-e-Faqieh* or guardianship of religious law.

This doctrine places Tehran above all earthly laws and permits it to carry out any action necessary to uphold the law of God, as Iran's own religious authorities interpret it.

The latest victim of Iran's assassins was Reza Mazlouman, a former minister under the Shah, murdered at his home near Paris at the end of last month.

In March, Belgian customs authorities found 650lbs of explosives, including Semtex, on board an Iranian freighter in Antwerp, together with a mortar.

French and Belgian police believe that the arms were intended for terrorist attacks against dissidents.

French authorities are understood to have concluded that the most likely target was the Paris headquarters of the Iranian National Council of Resistance, and Maryam Rajavi, its president-elect.

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Mrs Rajavi, whose husband, Massoud, is leading a military campaign against the Iranian regime from an enclave in Iraq, is in London this week, where she attended a 25,000-strong rally against Islamic fundamentalism at Olympia, and helped to launch the report.

Iran: Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets With Syria's al-Shar'

JN2906170396 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani today received a message from President Hafiz al-Asad. The message was delivered by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' when Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received him this afternoon. The Iranian president gave the foreign minister a reply message to President Hafiz al-Asad.

The meeting was attended by Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Ahmad al-Hasan, Syrian ambassador to Iran. Discussions during the meeting dealt with regional developments and bilateral ties.

In a separate development, Syrian-Iranian talks were held under Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. Foreign Minister al-Shar' expressed satisfaction with this meeting, which dealt with regional developments. Views were exchanged on all that serves the two countries' joint interests and enhances regional security and stability. Al-Shar' noted the status of the Syrian-Iranian relations and their constant promotion. He expressed satisfaction with the results of Dr. Velayati's recent visit to Damascus.

For his part, Dr. Velayati welcomed al-Shar'. He said this visit will enhance and promote bilateral relations and praised the fruitful cooperation between the two countries in recent months at both the bilateral and regional levels.

Al-Shar' arrived in Tehran this afternoon on a visit to Iran. He was welcomed at Tehran Airport by Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velyati. Also welcoming him were Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, Iranian assistant foreign minister; Ahmad al-Hasan, Syrian ambassador to Iran; and Iranian Foreign Ministry officials.

Iran: Syrian Foreign Minister Meets Velayati in Tehran

LD2906172596 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Syrian foreign minister, met and conferred with Iran's foreign minister about regional developments.

Mr. Faruq al-Shar'a considered the common stances of Damascus and Tehran vis-a-vis the aggression by the Zionist regime in southern Lebanon as a sample of the two countries' cooperation and said: The Zionist regime's expansionist objectives, despite a change in methods, are still being pursued.

Mr. Velayati praised Syria's efforts during the Arab summit for expanding the front against the Zionist regime.

Iran: Velayati on Talks With Syrian Counterpart

LD2906200996 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in Persian 1815 GMT 29 Jun 96

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian foreign minister with unidentified correspondent on talks with Syrian counterpart, in English — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, what do you expect to take out of your talks with your Syrian counterpart, Mr. Faruq al-Shar'?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful. Mr. Faruq al-Shar' has come here after the ending of the recent summit in Cairo. He has come here to deliver a message from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to His Excellency President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. We have had very constructive and fruitful talks in advance. We have been talking about bilateral cooperation and also regional development. You know what has happened in Cairo. There was a declaration against Israel. Of course there were some negative points in the declaration against unity among Muslim countries. But we know that the Syrian Government has done its best to bring all the head of the states of the Arab countries together.

Relatively, they have been successful. But they could released a stronger declaration at the end of the summit in Cairo. But in spite of a lot of effort that the Syrian Government and some other Arab countries have done, the declaration was not very strong. But, it was a good indication that after six years the Arab countries could come together to take a position against Israel and that is progress for Arab countries.

[Correspondent] What coordinated stances have Tehran and Damascus adopted concerning the international and regional developments?

[Velayati] Before the holding of the summit in Cairo, I carried a message from His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani for President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus. Also, I had an opportunity to talk, not only with President Hafiz al-Asad but also with Mr. Faruq al-Shar'. So in advance we coordinated all positions to the

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benefit of all Arab countries and Muslims in the region against the conspiracies of Israelis and their supporters.

Iran: Commentary on U.S.-Egyptian 'Dispute' Over Peace Process

LD3006144496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1004 GMT 30 Jun 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's first visit to Egypt after the Likud party's succession to power in occupied Palestine and the Arab summit in Cairo, American and Egyptian media began a propaganda war, each accusing the other of disrupting the compromise process. After these propaganda campaigns, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa also confirmed a dispute between America and Egypt over the peace process and the purchase of Scud missile parts by Egypt from North Korea.

From the point of view of Egypt, America has actually been boosting the Zionist regime's expansionist motives by preventing the strengthening of Egypt's defense capability instead of putting pressure on Tel Aviv [as heard] to carry out its international and regional pledges regarding the peace process, according to its own accepted undertakings within the framework of the Madrid conference. From Cairo's standpoint, under the circumstances where the Zionist regime has been equipped with missiles armed with nuclear warheads and Jericho-3 missiles with a range of 1,500 km, America's objection to Egypt's being equipped with Scud missiles — with a range of only 300 km — is in no way justifiable.

From the point of view of Egypt's ruling group, it is not only the fact that the Zionist regime's nuclear arms have changed the military and political balance in favor of that regime. That regime's refusal to allow its nuclear centers to be inspected by international authorities, as well as the possibility of the deterioration of that regime's nuclear power stations — such as the Dimona power station — bring with them environmental threats for the people of the region, in particular the Zionist regime's neighboring states, and threaten the security of the Arab states in its various dimensions.

Moreover, Egyptian authorities see that the Zionist regime, in coordination with America, is trying to fan the flames of discord between Egypt and the upper Nile countries by giving aid to those countries to build dams on the Nile and — finally — endanger that country's economic infrastructure. It is with these serious threats in mind that Cairo, despite having signed the first peace accord with Tel Aviv, has now understood to a certain extent the dangers of having relations with the Zionist regime and is trying, by adopting new policies, to moderate its earlier policies in this regard.

Political experts believe that although it is possible for Egyptian disagreements with America and the Zionist regime not to attract attention so much in the short term, the measures that the two sides have utilized are capable of having significant consequences in the long term. For instance, the tendency toward Europe of Egypt and some Arab countries, aimed at moderating the American supportive position toward the Zionist regime, can lead to an enlarged political role by Europe in the Middle East political equation. Taking into account the expansion of regionalism in the international order and increased economic exchanges between Europe and the Middle East countries, that issue is a source of concern for America. If this trend continues, it can lead to a reduction of the American political role and further defeat for American policies in this region.

Iran: Velayati on G-7 Summit, Turkish Border Bombing

LD3006115496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati took part this afternoon in a news conference on the sidelines of an international conference on Afghanistan. He stated: The outlook for Afghanistan is most encouraging. With the cooperation and support of various [Afghan] parties we could witness a promising future for that country. The Islamic Republic of Iran will make every effort to that end.

Stating that America is no longer able to impose its views on the world as the world's powerful lone ranger [yekkehtaz], he referred to the statement game [bayaniyyeh-bazi] of the G-7 summit in Lyons, France, and said: The stances of French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in this regard are most positive and demonstrate that America cannot act arbitrarily. He further said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has declared on numerous occasions that it opposes terrorism and is against terror in all its forms. The European countries have stressed the need for this very point precisely in their stances at the G-7 summit.

On the crisis along the Iran-Turkey border and the bombardment of Iranian border areas by Turkish helicopters, the foreign minister said: Bearing in mind that the Turkish Army has denied violating Iranian airspace, it has been decided that investigative and expert groups will examine the situation on the ground and announce their

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final findings. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran will strongly defend the security of its citizens and its territorial integrity.

Iran: Village Residents Demand Probe Into Turkish Attack

LD2806160196 Tehran IRNA in English 1526 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Oroumiyeh, Jun 28 (IRNA) — A group of the residents of villages of the district of Silvana and the families of martyrs and the wounded in Wednesday's [26 June] bombing converged in front of the Martyr Arefiyan Hospital in Oroumiyeh calling on international organizations to probe into the Turkish Government's horrible crime.

Around 1900 on Wednesday three Turkish helicopters transgressed the airspace of Islamic Republic of Iran as an open flagrant violation of international norms and practices flying deep over 5 kilometers into the Iranian soil and opening fire on the tents set up in the Sargar Green area, west of Oroumiyeh.

The incursion lasted half an hour and left four women and two children fallen martyrs and 16 people seriously wounded.

As the result of the rocketing of the tents in which 300 people used to be sheltered, all the essential household items caught fire, 700 heads of sheep were destroyed and another 800 heads were missing.

Uthman Taheri, who has lost one of the members of his family in the savage bombing of the Turkish helicopeter incursion said in this rocketing, Turkey has embarked on the path of aggression and adventurism and as a consequence of which we ask the Islamic Republic of Iran to retaliate effectively.

Mohammad Salim Ghaaitarani, who lost six of his family members, said the Turkish government backed by the United States and Israel has committed this blind crime, stressing that the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the support of the Muslim nations must pursue the matter in international fora and ask the aggressing Turkey to indemnify the valiant tribe for the material and human losses.

Solaiman Ghaitarani another victim of the Turkish agression called on the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and freedom-loving international organizaitons to adopt firm stands in the face of the Turkish impudent moves.

This cowardly act of the Turks killing a number of defensless women and children in savage form should be responded to appropriately.

Local sources declared the following to have been martyred in the Wednesday Turkish incursion: Mrs. Safiyyeh Ghaitarani, Hamayel Ghaitarani, Khadijeh Ghaitarani, Zahra Ghaitarani, and the kids of Amir Taheri and Mohammad Taheri.

In Bahman 72, too, 11 Turkish jet fighters raided the Ghasem Rish region and Tozhal Valley located in Sardasht, killing nine and wounding 19 people.

Turkish Government officially apologized for its first incursion to the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, excusing itself that it was pursuing dissidents and that the bombing was inadvertantly done.

The Turkish Government has not, however, made any comment on the Wednesday incursion of its helicopters on the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran: Russia Prepared For Technology Transfer

LD2906183596 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 29 Jun 96

[Interview with Russian science and technology minister by unknown correspondent, in St. Petersburg, date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Russia is prepared to cooperate extensively with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the field of the transfer of technology, according to Russia's minister of science and technology.

[Correspondent] In view of your understanding of the technology and industry available in Iran, how far can Iran and Russia cooperate and how far is Russia willing to transfer its technology?

[Minister] Cooperating with your country is of interest to us because we can complement each other. We have many technologies which you lack. You have the interest, and capital is available in Iran. We are prepared to answer all your questions regarding the application of these technologies in the field of industry, agriculture and transport. It does not make any difference to us whether the consumer is Iranian, French or Korean. We are ready to cooperate.

Iran: U.S. Efforts To Establish 'Base' in Afghanistan Viewed

NC2806093496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Jun 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Wolf in Sheep's Clothing"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Representatives of some Afghan factions will attend three days of hearings in the U.S. Congress, beginning Tuesday, [25 June] organized by Republican Senator Hank Brown.

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The hearings, described as being aimed to focus on efforts to bring peace to the war-torn country, will also be attended by a deputy foreign minister of the Kabul Government, signalling the inconsiderable emphasis placed by the Afghan government on the meetings.

The senator has said that he hopes "these meetings will help our understanding of the situation in Afghanistan, as well as shed some light on the appropriate role for the U. S."

It is patent what kind of role for his country in Afghanistan's conflict the U.S. senator is hoping to secure, since just a glance at the contemporary world history would do to clarify the matter.

The recent world history dearly highlights the fact that the U.S. has frequently infiltrated into other countries on the pretext of restoring peace only to establish a regional base and promote its own interests. To cite a few examples: the U.S. interventions in Korea, Vietnam, Panama, Grenada, Haiti, and the more recent ones, Iraq and Kuwait.

Indeed, the forthcoming hearings in the Congress are aimed at paving the way for the U.S. to secure its footholds in Afghanistan and exploit the instability and unrest in that war-torn country.

The senior Afghan leaders are not to attend the meetings, which means they have fully realized that inviting the U.S. to intervene in their internal affairs is the same as jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Although all Afghan warring factions must make efforts at bridging over their rifts and conflicts and put an end to fratricidal war and bloodshed in their country, approaching the U.S. to achieve his end will yield no better results in the long-run than the suffering they underwent under the rule of communism in their country.

The reason is that both ideologies, the nearly-dead communism and the lingering capitalism, are opposed to the Afghan Muslims' real self, targeting their Islamic culture and identity.

The recent rapprochement between the two Afghan senior leaders, President-Borhanoddin Rabbani and ex-premier Golboddin Hekmatyar, is a positive step toward saving Afghanistan from its present predicament.

It is hoped that the leaders of the different Afghan factions, through goodwill and a sense of responsibility, do their best to settle their disputes peacefully and make the so-called peacemakers understand that the Afghan nation is vigilant and aware enough to identify the wolves in sheep's clothing.

Iran: Editorial Denounces BBC Distortion of Interview

NC2806065796 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 12 Jun 96 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "In the Margin of the Interview of a Professor of Ferdows University in Mashhad, by BBC Radio"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the Labor ministers of 173 countries of the world are congregating in Geneva to discuss the "hardships of child labor." The International Labor Organization [ILO], which is one of the UN organizations, issued a report stating that 73 million children of 10-12 years of age worldwide are engaged in difficult and rigorous employment, including agriculture, service, carpet-weaving and knitting, mines, brick kilns, and in the sex industry.

Even though the report mainly applies to African and Latin American countries, the foreign media strove to reap political capital and utilize the report for political propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran. For example, the BBC radio's Persian service arranged an interview with one of the professors of the Ferdows University in Mashhad. This professor told the BBC: "Juvenile girls in the families look after the infants in the family and help their mothers in various household tasks, as a result of which their education suffers, resulting in a disparity in their education as compared to boys. Childhood is the time when they should be free of any hardship and toil and we are robbing female children of such an opportunity."

In its analysis of the interview, the BBC radio said: Child labor is used in Iran, especially in the fields of agriculture and carpet-weaving, and the children are made to do rigorous jobs such working at brick kilns.

The British Government radio has sought to project the notion that Iranian children are forced to perform all kinds of hard labor and difficult tasks, and to portray the Islamic Republic of Iran as the subject of the ILO's report. Of course the BBC used an interview—which was based on ignorance—by a professor of the Mashhad university for this purpose.

This when, according to documented international reports, 15 million children are living in conditions of dire poverty in the United States and the use of children in the pornography industry in Britain, Germany, France, and other ostensibly civilized European countries is so rampant that an industry known as "kiddie porn" has emerged.

A glance at the statistics for violence, murder, kidnapping, and other forms of exploitation of children in the

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West proves that the children are the most deprived stratum of Western society.

Another bestial profession is the trade in children for the purpose of selling their organs, which is also an innovation of the West. Even though in some countries of the Third World children do live in difficult economic and social conditions and have to perform difficult tasks, it is due to the aggressive and brutal policies of the West against these societies.

In Iran, in view of the existing social and cultural conditions and, in comparison to international standards, the conditions are far more favorable, to the extent that experts are concerned over the danger of the proliferation of "militancy" in children and warn of its increasing incidence among children (even though one cannot deny extreme poverty in many families in the lowest income groups).

However, our final remarks are addressed to those of our university professors who become confused by one telephone call from the BBC radio and place at its disposal whatever comes into their baffled minds. We should keep in view the ways that foreign radios utilize our remarks and know in what context they will be used. God forbid that we should inadvertently assist in the scenario that they may have planned for us.

Iran: Commentary by Self-Sufficiency Jihad Head

96LA0229B Tehran SAFF in Persian
No. 189, Ja[illegible]-Feb 96 pp 26-27

[Interview with General Ma'sumzadeh, deputy commander of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Infantry Self-Sufficiency Jihad, by SAFF "at his work place;" date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Note—After some effort, we finally succeeded in becoming better acquainted with the activities of the Infantry of the Islamic Republic of Iran Self-Sufficiency Jihad in a meeting with Brigadier General Ma'sumzadeh at his work place.

As we went into the Jihad office, everything suggested construction: new construction and reconstruction. What was most evident was the bare columns and the laborers at work. One worker was welding, another was laying bricks to make a wall firm and strong, a third was digging, and so forth.

On the way to General Ma'sumzadeh's office I was speaking with the military police escort officer, who spoke of the grandeur of the construction being done by the zealous crusaders in this force. A Zul-Fiqar tank was largely visible in the distance. We can actually do anything if only we can put aside "wanting."

I was thinking these things when we reached the general's office. We told his secretary about the interview and he was also aware of it. After the necessary coordination, I was guided, along with a reporter from another of the nation's publications, to General Ma'sumzadeh's office.

At first look calmness and self-confidence were visible on his face. I said to myself, truly, these brave men with such vast hearts have never existed in this country at any other time. Truly, these people are the soldiers of the Imam of the Age (may God hasten his joyful advent).

We spread out the necessary material for the interview and our interview with General Ma'sumzadeh, deputy commander of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Infantry Self-Sufficiency Jihad, began.

[SAFF] We thank you for giving us your time. Please discuss the activities of the Self-Sufficiency Jihad during the revolution, the war, and also the role of this affiliate office in the period of reconstruction since the war.

[Ma'sumzadeh] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Until prior to the triumph of the Islamic revolution, many foreign consultants were present to guide the logistical and technical system in the infantry. Of these, a number were in the infantry and a number were employed in the Army Air Force, which is an infantry unit. With the triumph of the Islamic revolution and the expulsion of the foreign advisers, and also with the flight of a number of them, the existing personnel in the Army and in its own Infantry had to take complete responsibility for the logistical, technical, and industrial aspects of the guidance so that no gaps would arise in the work and no one would think that everything would come to a standstill when the foreign advisors left. Of course this is just what the advisors themselves expected. When they left the Army Air Force they said they would be back within 40 days because we did not have the ability to manage these systems and complexes. However, with the independence that the country gained by cutting dependence and with the orders that the exalted leader gave in his role as chief of the Supreme Defense Council, the office of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Infantry Self-Sufficiency Jihad was created in the Military Arms Division to meet the technical, industrial, and scientific needs.

Since the Self-Sufficiency Jihad was formed during the imposed war, it initially began by creating needed resources and procuring manpower in the area of making spare parts, which was one of the problems during the war. Likewise, by taking over the infantry factories provided for rebuilding equipment, it became active in rebuilding and improving equipment. During the long period of the war, when equipment was damaged, through

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continuous effort these factories were able to rebuild damaged equipment and make it available to the units. For example during the war, and under wartime conditions when our reconstruction factories were located in the war areas, we rebuilt 1,000 tanks and returned them to the operational units.

With the acceptance of the resolution, our needs took on a different definition and measures had to be taken to rebuild and especially to modernize the equipment because in view of the length of the war it was necessary that the equipment be brought up to date and mechanized. In view of the progress that has been made in the world's military arms, we also worked to modernize the equipment. Along with these activities, in view of the orders from the exalted leader and commander in chief of the Armed Forces in the year 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] to build tanks, personnel carriers, and helicopters in the army, and also his emphasis on having adequate capability in this regard in the infantry, measures were taken to provide the necessary resources and to gather the needed specialists and experienced manpower. Initially tanks and personnel carriers were designed. Praise God, these efforts led to the construction of Iran's Zul-Fiqar Tank, with very good capabilities.

Mobility is a very important factor for the infantry. In order for the units to be sent to their intended destinations quickly and in a timely manner and to be present in the field of operations, they need adequate mobility. This mobility is especially important for moving various kinds of heavy equipment such as tanks of various types, which have heavy weight and must be shipped with special equipment. In this area also, in view of the orders from the exalted leader, the tank trailers, especially the Tiger 400 tank hauler, were modernized and these are now on the mass production line.

In the area of air equipment, the exalted leader ordered that the infantry also carry out air activities. Initially the OCM [expansion unknown] project was carried out in the Army Air Force to improve helicopters, and so far 100 helicopters of various types have been through the OCM program and assigned to operational vessels. Other projects are also under way in the area of the construction of air equipment and facilities, and God willing this will be announced at the appropriate time.

One of these projects is the construction of a type of bird with military capabilities, and an invitation to observe it will be made at the appropriate time.

[SAFF] You mentioned the Zul-Fiqar tank and the Tiger 400 Tank Transport Vehicle. Please discuss this equipment further.

[Ma'sumzadeh] The design and construction of the Zul-Fiqar tank began early in 1370 [21 March 1991-20 March 1992] and it was ready for public viewing early in 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995]. In other words, the entire time to design and build this tank was three years. In terms of capabilities, this tank is equal to the other tanks in the armies of the world. It weighs 40 tons, has a motor with 1,000 steam horsepower, and has a 125 millimeter cannon. Its speed on level ground is 70 kilometers, which is quite desirable. It is already on the production line and its mass production will begin soon.

It is worth mentioning that all of the tank's designing, engineering work, and construction was done with the use of existing experts in the infantry, and no help was used from any foreign source. This tank was built for our own armored forces in view of the needs that exist. It is also available to other countries if so ordered by the exalted leader.

With regard to the Tiger 400, we must say that this tank carrier is a Russian model which had a number of major problems. With a series of changes made to its general systems, it was converted to a very powerful tank carrier vehicle with high capability. In view of the existing number of these tank carriers, which are on the modernization line, there will be a striking increase in the mobility of the heavy equipment carriers of the Infantry of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[SAFF] We asked General Ma'sumzadeh about making use of foreign military specialists in this unit. He answered: Within the limits of the Army's needs and in view of the scientific knowledge and technical resources that exist, we can meet our own needs without the need for technical consultants, and we have no need for foreign consultants.

Currently the practice of copying war tools and equipment and building models of them has become popular in semi-industrialized nations, such as the Southeast Asian countries. What view and program does the Reconstruction Jihad have in this regard?

[Ma'sumzadeh] As I said, climactic conditions dictate a series of factors for any equipment. It is quite impossible to make an exact copy of a piece of equipment made for use in one region and use it successfully in another area just as it is. However, currently this practice of making similar models is a quick way to obtain the technical knowledge to build any military equipment. However, in view of our country's vast size, its varied climate, and the great differences in elevation among its various locations, the equipment must have its own special characteristics.

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In our own designing we use the features of the equipment made in other countries. We make use of their equipment, but we adapt it for our own needs.

[SAFF] Our enemies are always saying in their propaganda that in increasing its budget for weaponry, Iran is seeking to obtain nuclear weaponry and is also seeking war. What is your analysis of this?

[Ma'sumzadeh] What I must say is that our military research centers are not actively working on nuclear weaponry. They are doing research in nuclear applications only to meet needs such as electrical power and other things. As for the increase in the military budget, this is only for modernization and improvements. We have had many war implements since before the triumph of the Islamic revolution, and we have also taken many from the enemy as war spoils. To modernize this equipment and in view of the needs we have because of threats from the enemy, we must modernize this equipment. This budget increase is mostly for the purpose of modernizing the ordinary equipment we have been using for years. To do this modernization, we must automatically do research as well, and needs must be met so these tasks can be carried out.

[SAFF] What is the level and place of military research in our country compared to that of other countries?

[Ma'sumzadeh] In view of the threats that have been inappropriately leveled against the Islamic Republic of Iran by the superpowers, the Center for Military Research must be active and continuously aware of international progress for the purpose of maintaining readiness and for maintaining readiness in the combat units. It must keep existing capabilities and equipment equal to what exists in the region. In answer to your question, praise God, we are not behind the neighboring countries.

[SAFF] As a final question, please give us your view on the extent of the success of the units that exist within the Self-Sufficiency Jihad. In the future, will it be possible with these units to hope to meet war needs?

[Ma'sumzadeh] With the complete independence the nation obtained with the triumph of the Islamic revolution and also with the severing of dependence on foreigners, especially in military areas, and also under the supreme orders of the exalted leader, the subsidiary Office of Research and Self-Sufficiency was created in the army. With the creation of this complex, the army's technical, scientific, and industrial needs have been met. In view of the progress that has been made and also the projects that are under way, day by day we will advance the army toward industrial and military self-sufficiency.

Iran: Judiciary Chief Rejects Charges of Human Rights Violation

LD2706120296 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 27 Jun 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In an interview today, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, answered a number of questions put forward by reporters. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Yazdi stressed the importance of dealing with cases of the violation of the Iranian Constitution, adding that a bill on convening a constitutional court will soon be debated in the Majles. He said the bill was just one of the positive tasks accomplished by the judiciary.

He added: The convening of this court is unprecedented in the country's judicial history. The court will be able to prevent cases of constitutional violations. [passage omitted]

Mr. Yazdi then referred to the unfounded and baseless reports by international legal forums alleging human rights violations in Iran, and stressed the principle that the Islamic penal system cannot be altered.

He said: Respect for human rights is a positive point which attracts the attention of public opinion. It is for this reason that the arrogant powers use this issue as a political instrument to further their objectives in other countries.

He added: One should not allow the human rights issue to be adversely influenced by political considerations.

The head of the judiciary, furthermore, said the presence of women in the judiciary and their enjoyment of social rights clearly showed that women's rights and individual and social freedoms were fully respected in Iran.

He said: At present, in some Arab countries which have a parliament but are nonetheless ruled under the influence of America, women are not allowed to take part in parliamentary elections. However, international legal bodies still choose to close their eyes to these cases, and all they do is to continue to level unfounded allegations of human rights violation against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In another part of this interview, Mr. Yazdi said the establishment of the Islamic human rights commission was another effective step taken by the judiciary.

He added: A UN human rights meeting in Geneva recently recognized the Islamic commission as a national and official entity.

Mr. Yazdi then said that the bill on forming a law enforcement force to act under the authority of the

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judiciary was an important and necessary step. He called on the Majles to approve this bill and therefore help the judiciary to deal with all legal cases with care and precision.

Iran: Parliamentary Deputy on Islamization of Universities

LD2706224096 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 23 Jun 96 p 2.

["Text" of Interview with Dr. Mohammad Hoseyn Shoja'i-Fard, parliamentary deputy for the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education by unidentified RESALAT correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [RESALAT] What has the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education done towards the Islamization of universities?

[Shoja'i-Fard] The issue of Islamization of universities goes back to a meeting between the supreme leader and the minister of culture and higher education, last Tir 1374 [Month beginning 22 June 1995] [Date as published]. In that meeting, he gave this great mission to Dr. Hashemi-Golpayegani and asked him to carry out a study. Within a short time, a headquarters was set up at the ministry, headed by the minister and after two or three months a plan was drawn up and submitted to the supreme leader. He expressed his thanks for the plan in a letter and gave the necessary directives for its implementation, including contacts with Qom seminary and making use of the views of the seminarians, paying particular attention to books on social sciences, etc. Following that period, meetings were held with the leading ayatollahs and the esteemed authorities of the seminary and, while making preliminary consultations, the leader's directives were pursued.

Subsequently, officials were selected to take up responsibility for various parts of the Islamization plan and the matter is being seriously pursued.

[RESALAT] Which body is charged with the responsibility of Islamizing the universities and who was being addressed by the supreme leader in this connection?

[Shoja'i-Fard] If you look at his gracious statements, it is clear that he was addressing the present authorities of the ministry and the heads of universities in the country.

[RESALAT] Some lecturers have put out rumors to the effect that the universities are to close following this terms' examinations and the lecturers are to be dismissed. What plan does the ministry have in this regard?

[Shoja'i-Fard] As you, yourself, said, these are all rumors. Concerning the methodology, the supreme leader gave the following guidelines, which are totally unconnected with closing the universities. Since the issue is very long, pay attention to what he says. [passage omitted]

As for lecturers, those who were mentioned by the supreme leader must definitely be dismissed, but their number is not many. Incidentally, those very troublesome lecturers are putting about these rumors because they know that the supreme leader was addressing them.

[RESALAT] What methods can be envisaged for Islamizing the universities?

[Shoja'i-Fard] We must go through several stages: The objective, review of the requirements and resources, planning, implementation, assessment of results and feedback are the stages which will take us to our goal, which is the Islamization of the universities.

Initially we must endeavor to find a unified definition for an Islamic university through gathering ideas from the seminary and the universities. Then, when the definitions become clear concerning the lecturers, the students, the university atmosphere and tradition, the dos and don'ts must be drawn up as regulations and submitted to relevant officials.

Iran: Restrictions on Minority Communities 'Quite Natural'

LD2706172196 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 23 Jun 96 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Iran is Home to Many Religious and Ethnic Communities"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Iran is the cradle of ancient civilization and its great history is a mirror of the fact that Persia, as it used to be called in the past, always attached significant importance to the rights of all the people with various ethnic and religious backgrounds.

Centuries-old tablets, unearthed in recent times in Fars Province, depict Iran's positive concern for human rights, most appropriately found their place in the United Nation's hall. These tablets remind the world that, historically, Iran has been a pioneer of human rights in the world.

The leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i rightly commented that "Iranians lived and worked together in their society for a common cause free from religious discrimination."

The leader said so in a meeting with the participants at the World Zoroastrian Congress ended here yesterday.

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History is an honest witness that the Iranian nation never adopted a narrow-minded attitude in respect of genuine religious and ethnic communities.

After the culmination of the Islamic revolution in 1979, religious and ethnic communities in Iran were paid great attention by the leaders and the government in Tehran.

One of the most notable aspects of Iran's revolutionary theme is to confer rights to the religious minorities by sending minority representatives to the country's highest law-making body, the Majles.

The constitution of the Islamic Republic bestows the right of representation to any group of 150,000 or more of its ordinary citizens. But in the case of religious minorities there is no minimum number required.

Almost half of the world's 210,000 Zoroastrians live in Iran and they send one deputy to the Majles.

Besides the Zoroastrians, Iran is home to Jewish, Christians of various sects, as well as a variety of ethnic communities. They all follow their social and traditional customs according to their own religions and beliefs.

They have their own schools for educating their children with no restrictions. It is quite natural if the minority communities have certain restrictions in certain areas of their day-to-day lives.

These limitations are set in order not to offend the religious feelings of the majority community.

These restrictions are not meant as barriers to the performance of religious obligations by minority communities. Iran is home to many religious and ethnic communities.

Iran: Reader Questions Leniency for Embezzlement Case Defendant

LD2706213496 Tehran SALAM in Persian 23 Jun 96 p 3

[From the "Hello SALAM" column: "On Morteza Rafiqdust"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Unidentified reader] Is it admissible that the second defendant in the [Bank Saderat's] 120 billion [embezzlement] case be put in charge of Evin prison's shop so that he can leave the prison whenever he likes? He has even signed a contract with the prison in connection with this. Please tell us how is that possible?

[SALAM] In connection with the above news, that Mr. Morteza Rafiqdust has been given the responsibility for Evin prison's shop and can leave the prison any time he likes, and that other facilities have been put at his disposal, we asked the organization in charge of the country's prisons if they could confirm the news. They did not reply. Then, we asked the office of the head of the judiciary. They did not respond to our question either.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bhutto's Party, Alliance Win Majority in Azad Kashmir Polls

BK0107092496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] APP says Pakistan Democratic Front has swept the polls held yesterday for the Azad Jammu and Kashmir legislative assembly [LA] and won two-third majority in the house. The Azad Kashmir Election Commission has, however, so far declared 26 unofficial results [out of 40]. Accordingly, People's Party has bagged 18 seats, Muslim Conference four, Pakistan Muslim League Azad Jammu and Kashmir one, and independent candidates three. Two more unofficial results were declared this morning by the election commission from Muzaffarabad One and Bhimber Two constituencies. From LA 28 Muzaffarabad One, Mr. Ali Khan Chugtai of Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference has won. From LA Six Bhimber Two, Azad Kashmir People's Party candidate, Chowdhury Mohammad Rashid, has been successful.

Pakistan: Bhutto Addresses Nation on Kashmir

BK2906155096 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 1635 GMT 28 Jun 96

[Address to the nation by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto — live or recorded; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of Allah, the most beneficent and merciful. My dear countrymen! Peace be upon you. Today, I am addressing you with regard to the most important problem in the history of Pakistan. As you are aware, the people's government, which is really your own government, has taken the people into confidence in every important matter. Today, Pakistan has reached a very important phase of its history. Today, the valiant and honorable people of Pakistan are actively standing shoulder-to- shoulder with their leadership in its efforts toward construction and development. The independence of Pakistan and the sovereignty of Pakistan are incomplete without the freedom and the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris. Kashmir is, for us, a question of life and death. With the points of bayonets, chests can be pierced; but spirits cannot be subdued. Real wishes and aspirations of people cannot be suppressed on the strength of military might.

Today, Pakistan has a government that brought the Kashmir issue out from obscurity. During the tenure

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of the people's government, the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] adopted an unanimous resolution on Kashmir in their first meeting in 1990. We have raised the Kashmir issue at the Human Rights Commission in Geneva in January 1994 and in the United Nations General Assembly in September 1994. Thereafter, we raised this issue at various sessions of the United Nations Human Rights Commission and the Organization of Islamic Conference. We summoned an emergency meeting of the OIC foreign ministers in Islamabad in September 1994. At the meeting, it was decided to set up a Contact Group on the Kashmir issue. It was only due to our tireless efforts and constant endeavors that a unanimous resolution was adopted and a declaration issued at the Islamic summit conference in Casablanca in December 1994. While representing the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, the Muslim leaders of occupied Kashmir took their voice to the highest forum of the Islamic world. Our moral and political pressure constrained India to permit Mir Waiz Umar Farooq and his associates to participate in the Casablanca conference. For the first time in history, leaders of the Muslim world unanimously raised their voice in support of our efforts to resolve this problem and the Contact Group of the Islamic Conference was formally established. Thus, the entire world came to know how serious the Muslim countries are in resolving this problem of the Muslim community.

Parliament involved public opinion leaders in its efforts to highlight the significance of this problem inside the country. By adopting resolutions, our Parliament itself gave voice and meaning to the people's sentiments on this issue. Under the leadership of senior political leader Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, an all-party Kashmir committee of the Parliament was formed. It guided public opinion on the Kashmir issue everywhere — inside Pakistan as well as in foreign countries. History tells us, and this is supplemented by the Holy Koran that those who have the courage to turn the direction of the world with their struggle, get the mercy and support of Allah.

Our steps have started to yield positive effects. At the White House, President Clinton admitted that Kashmir is a disputed issue. The British Labor Party included Kashmir problem in its charter. United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali supports Pakistan's stand. We are proud that, as in the past, we are still the guardians of truth and are exposing injustice. We have been helping the Kashmiri people in the past as well; for their sake, we are taking part in their struggle with full vigor and energy even today. Let India invade Charar-i-Sharif, Hazratbal, Anantnag- Islamabad, or let it shower fire and blood on Forward Kahuta. Let it install Agni, Prithvi, and Trishul missiles, or let it think about establishing its superiority based on the strength of its planes, tanks, and naval ships. God willing, we will rest only after foiling its unholy designs.

The goal of the people of Kashmir is success, and that cannot be prevented by anyone now. They may assassinate one Jalil Andrabi; but the soil of Kashmir will create hundreds of Jalil Andrabi's. Lone, Gilani, Yasin Malik, Shabbir Shah, and Mir Waiz Umar Farooq are not mere persons; everyone of them has become a symbol of the struggle against injustice and support for freedom and justice. Not one of them will stoop for the sake of power or sell himself. Not one of them is a Mir Jafar or Mir Sadiq [traitors]. The people and the people's government of Pakistan respect their sentiments. All of the Indian leaders from Narasimha Rao to Vajpayee and from Deve Gowda to Gujral desire to hold talks with us. Although they do not have the courage to take steps to solve the problem, they are now recognizing the existence and the importance of the problem.

My brothers and sisters, today time once again demands from us a decision — a decision, which is the pivot of not only Kashmir, but our own future itself. As you are aware, the arrangements for general elections in Azad Kashmir have been completed. The people of Azad Kashmir have also exercised this right time and again; but, this time, they have an opportunity to exercise this right in a specific atmosphere and environment. The entire world is focused on these elections. Just a few days ago, an election ploy was held in occupied Jammu and Kashmir. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference and other regional parties and groups boycotted those fraudulent elections. [Kashmir's National Conference leader] Farooq Abdullah also refused to take part in the elections. Even the election staff were called in from India for the so-called elections. The members of the election staff went to the polling stations wearing bulletproof jackets, and tight security was provided by security forces.

The whole world witnessed the violation of human values in Kashmir and the oppression and helplessness of the Kashmiri people. Even the scenes shown on Indian television exposed this ploy. The world media carried true stories of these sham elections. The GUARDIAN of London in its 23 May edition wrote: People reported that they had been intimidated by the troops; that if their fingers did not bear the election ink, then their fingers would be chopped off the next day. On the very next day, the same paper commented: The Kashmiris were brought out from their houses amid beatings and were goaded like animals to cast their votes. On 24 May, LONDON TIMES wrote: Most of the elections in oc-

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cupied Kashmir have been fake. This time was no exception.

Voters could only vote from among the pro-India parties; therefore, there was no scope for freedom at all. India added 100,000 troops to the already deployed 600,000 security forces in Kashmir. Even then, however, they were afraid of holding elections. In order to increase the number of voters, refugees, as the so-called Kashmir pundits, were given the right to absentee ballots through a unilateral amendment to the People's Representation Act. Nevertheless, 2 million Muslim refugees were deprived of this right. Infamous legislation such as the Terrorism and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act were in force. Candidates were kept inside cantonments. Moreover, dressed as Kashmiris, countless Indian citizens and government employees were brought to polling stations in order to swell the numbers in the crowd for the TV cameras. All these tactics of fear, anxiety, terror, and greed were rejected, not only by the people of Kashmir, but by a vast majority of the people and leaders of the free world. The elections to six Lok Sabha seats were held in three phases. On earlier occasions, Indian authorities staged dramas of the so-called elections eight times and imposed central rule frequently. Owing to the struggle of the people of Kashmir and the complete efforts of the people of Pakistan, they were never able to fool the world. The recent fake elections cannot be described as elections in any way. God willing, the sun of the freedom of Kashmir will definitely rise and God willing, will rise soon.

My dear Pakistani and Kashmiri brothers, sisters, and young men. In contrast to the elections in occupied Kashmir, elections in Azad Kashmir are being held — all on one day — according to the schedule. The entire population of the free area and all the political parties are taking part in these elections. The Azad Kashmir elections will be conducted with the help of local personnel under the supervision of the Azad Kashmir's own Election Commission and there is no question of any outside interference in them. The Election Commission has been given necessary powers and resources under the Constitution to ensure the holding of elections in a completely transparent, impartial and fair manner. In addition to all of the political parties, people's representatives, press and media personnel, neutral observers and international teams have full freedom to go to Azad areas to conduct on-the-spot monitoring of the election process and the results. I want to invite you — and the world through you — to come and see what real democracy is; come and see the difference between freedom and slavery, and between reality and farce. I am confident that every person who will observe the present election process in Azad Kashmir will come to realize what the people of Kashmir wish. He will see and know what free and fair elections are and how they teach respect for democracy and democratic institutions. He will also come to know that democracy flourishes in an atmosphere of peace and not of fear.

Only a few days ago, the drama of the presidential election was staged in Azad Kashmir. Even though we were opposed to this process and its procedure, we did not impose central rule on the territory. Pro-India forces wished that we would impose central rule and send troops there, but we have not done this for the sake of the Kashmir cause. Even today I want to assure the nation and the entire world that we want to see elections in Azad Kashmir conducted in a very transparent, fair, and impartial manner in order to provide an opportunity to the people to elect their real representatives. We do not have any intention to force our opinion on anybody; nor will we allow anybody to adopt any wrong means to influence the election results in their favor. This is our commitment.

No undemocratic step will be taken in arranging the elections — whether they are on the soil of Azad Kashmir or for the seats reserved for the immigrants from India. We prefer to assume and remain in power on the basis of popular mandate. We have faith in God's grace and blessings and in the cooperation of the people. I am confident that the Azad Kashmir government and the Election Commission officials will also hold high the flag of democracy, peace and justice. I want to remind all those concerned that Islam, which is our faith and our way of life, enjoins upon us to observe tolerance and righteousness and to perform noble deeds. It stresses granting right to one to whom it is due. Let us all adhere to the principles of truth and justice. I would also like to tell our Kashmiri brothers and sisters that a vote is a symbol of trust. You are the heirs of your brave and high-minded ancestors. The time for elections has come. When you give your vote, you should keep in mind the honor and dignity of Pakistan, security of Azad Kashmir, and the liberation of occupied Kashmir, because your verdict will set in motion the future current of events, will decide your destiny and your struggle for the freedom of Kashmir. We are waiting for your verdict. Benazir will remain on your side, on Kashmir's side, under all circumstances. She will continue her struggle until Kashmir has achieved full freedom. I pray to God for your bright future and immeasurable success and happiness. May God help you! Good-bye. Long live Azad Kashmir! Long live the people of Kashmir! Long live Pakistan!

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Pakistan: Prime Minister Congratulates Afghanistan's Hekmatyar

BK2606151396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Jun 96 pp 1,9

[Report by Mariana Baabar in Islamabad and Behroz Khan in Peshawar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in a surprise move on Tuesday [25 Jun] dispatched a letter to congratulate the would be Afghan primer Golbaddin Hekmatyar who assumes the charge of his new office today. However, Islamabad would be represented by its consul general in Jalalabad, Mr. Shinwari, at the investiture ceremony. In another development the Afghan Government will send an aircraft to Islamabad to take guests for the investiture ceremony. 'A special plane from Kabul will land at Islamabad airport today to take at least fifty people from Pakistan as guests of the Kabul government,' said Hezb-e-Eslami spokesman Abdul Saboor who is coordinator for the visit. Earlier, the flight was to land at Peshawar on Tuesday but the program was changed as Kabul government decided to send the plane to Islamabad instead.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in her letter hoped that Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan and its chief Golbaddin Hekmatyar would be able to play a positive role in the affairs of the war ravaged country. The theme of the letter, Hezb sources said, was that she wants a friendly and working relationship between the two neighboring counties to normalize the hitherto strained relations.

The Pakistanis who are expected to attend the ceremony include Senator Barrister Masood Kausar, a PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader from Kohat, who has been nominated as representative of Benazir Bhutto's government. Nazar Kayani, who heads the PPP Secretariat in Islamabad will represent the People's Party (PPP).

The PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] is sending Akram Zaki for the ceremony. He will be accompanied by Haji Javed from NWFP [Northwest Frontier Province].

The Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party is also sending a representative, while Jamaat's Qazi Hussian Ahmed, due to his preoccupation in the country, has nominated a four-member team to be headed by Chaudhry Abdul Salimi.

Amongst the diplomats, according to the Hezb spokesman, will be one from Saudi Arabia is expected to go besides representatives from the local and international media. One of the strongest supporters of Hekmatyar, Gen. (retd) Hamid Gul, is unable to leave because of his wife who is unwell.

This will be the first instance in the last ten months that Islamabad would restore its official contacts with Kabul. Relations were strained following an attack on the Pakistan embassy in Kabul the very next day, resulting in the killing of one of the security personnel and burning the embassy to ashes. Meanwhile, the Taleban Islamic movement which is considered to be close to Pakistan has issued stern warnings to all outsiders, including journalists that entry into the Afghan capital for taking part in the ceremony would be at their own risk.

Pakistan: Foreign Secretary Views 'Vital Stakes' in Afghanistan

BK2906074996 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 28 Jun 96 p 12

[PPI report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KARACHI—Foreign secretary Najmuddin Sheikh Thursday said that instability in Afghanistan affected security of Pakistan.

"Therefore we have a vital stakes in peace in that country". Addressing members of Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) on the foreign policy of Pakistan here last evening, he said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto shortly after assuming power in October 1993, stated that it was for the Afghan groups to decide what type of government was needed in their country "Pakistan keeps regular contact with every Afghan group in order to persuade them to have peace", he added.

He spoke of Golboddin Hekmatyar joining the government of Borhanoddin Rabbani as prime minister but added that Afghan situation was complex and Pakistan policy of neutrality was not responded by Kabul. He felt that idea of arms embargo on Afghanistan might have a psychological impact. He recalled that Pakistan had deep involvement in Afghanistan during the years of Jehad which resulted in problems for Islamabad in the shape of drugs, arms refugees and law and order problem in Balochistan and NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] provinces.

There were still 1.5 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan, he said and added that Afghanistan was dependent that on 70 per cent of its food and other requirement in Islamabad.

He said although Pakistan had a vital stake for peace in Afghanistan but "we cannot impose peace in that country."

At the outset, he spoke of efforts by Pakistan for a nuclear free zone in South Asia since 1974. Pakistan

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placed this proposal in United Nations and received support from many countries but India did not accept it. On nuclear disarmament, he said Pakistan's proposal on this and full-scope nuclear safeguards were not responded to by India. "We are focusing on regional disarmament but at the same time believe in global disarmament", he observed. Sheikh said Pakistan was very closely studying changes in India after the recent general elections following which a coalition government comprising regional and some central parties was formed as well as their response to talks with Islamabad".

"The coalition government in India is dependent Congress(I) in vote of confidence and legislation in Lok Sabha. We are closely studying these changes. He reiterated Pakistan's offer for resumption of talks on various issues, including Kashmir.

On trade with India, he said this had to be studied in terms of economic advantages and disadvantages. On Kashmir issue, he said there were many countries who were ready to mediate between the two countries, but New Delhi did not agree, to mediation efforts on this Issue.

He agreed with a questioner that closure of Indian consulate in Karachi last year had created problems for visa seekers who now had to go to Indian high commission in Islamabad. He assured that efforts were being made to minimise their problems, but did not elaborate.

Pakistan: Further on President's Remarks on CTBT

BK2906074396 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 28 Jun 96 pp 1, 9

[APP]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari said Thursday that would never succumb to international pressure and not sign CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty], until and unless it's concerns are satisfied. Talking to newsmen here after inaugurating the 21st international Nathia Gali Summer College, arranged by Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Leghari commenting on American president's letter to Pakistan to sign Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), said.

"Pakistan never succumbed to pressure and neither it would be. But we agree with the objectives of CTBT. We are looking for the exact shape, of CTBT. We want that our concerns must be satisfied." Earlier, delivering his opening speech he urged upon the leadership at all levels to realise, 'where we stand now ." Leghari said there were many kinds of leadership in our society and all those should realise their duties at all levels. "Every establishment and every leadership should come out and share its responsibility."

Leghari also called upon the scientists to make the people and politicians realise what they are losing by neglecting the field of science and technology. "Who stopped them from forming pressure groups for this purpose?" asked the president. "Islam established very close contact between religion and science. We are in fact neglecting Islam by not doing work in this particular field."

The president said: "Our heads hang in shame when we see two third of population illiterate. It is very unfortunate state of affairs in Pakistan that collectively as a nation, we don't accord as much to science and technology, what we should have, keeping in view the needs of Our country. There is a big mismatch between what the political, social, economic and educational leadership desire and between the efforts these leadership do or the resources that they allocate to this field. This mismatch has been there from day one, the day Pakistan came into being."

Talking about constitution of software board at government level, Leghari expressed great satisfaction and said it was a very good step but less publicised. "My government unfortunately doesn't know how to publicise their good works." Leghari also distributed certificates among the position holders of the contest organised by PAEC for the students of the colleges. Nadia Sheikh of OPF College stood first in the contest. Imran Khan from Gordon College, Rawalpindi was second and third position was shared by Usman Farooq, G/6-3 College and Shahid Razzaq of Cadet College Hasanabdal. The college was started by Dr Abdul Salam in 1967, which is participated by scientists from abroad and inside the country. This year in addition to the faculty, there are 35 foreign participants from 16 different countries whereas the local participants from universities, scientific organisations and various PAEC establishments are expected to be over 150. In his welcome address the PAEC chairman, Dr Ishfaq Ahmed, highlighted the achievements of PAEC and elaborated the purpose of holding these sessions.

Pakistan: Chinese Navy Chief Discusses Ties With Top Brass

BK2906162396 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Commander of the Chinese Navy Admiral Zhang Lianzhong, called on chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee, and chief of the naval staff today at their respective headquarters. During his

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meeting with the chairman of joint chiefs of staff committee, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Feroze Khan, Adm. Zhang Lianzhong reiterated the bonds of friendship and mutual cooperation which exist between Armed Forces of the two countries and he expressed the hope that additional avenues would be explored for further cementing these relations.

During his call on the chief of the naval staff, Adm. Mansurul Haq, various aspects relating to further promotion of the excellent ties between the two navies came up for discussion.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: Tamil Parties Hold 'Encouraging' Talks With President

BK2906105796 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 29 Jun 96

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE six Tamil political parties which had discussions with President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga on Thursday [27 June] said the talks were encouraging.

"We came out of the talks convinced that the president and the government are committed to find a lasting solution to the ethnic problem," said EPDP [Eelam People's Democratic Party] leader Douglas Devananda.

The Tamil parties that attended the talks were: Tamil United Liberation Front [TULF], Eelam People's Democratic Party, People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam [PLOTE], Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front [EPRLF], Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students [EROS], and Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation [TELO].

TULF president M. Sivasithamparam conveyed to the president the united opposition of the Tamil parties to the United National Party MP K.N. Choksy's suggestion for the retention of the unitary character of the constitution and accommodating the devolution proposals through an amendment to Article 76.

Tamil party sources said that the president had told them that Mr. Choksy's suggestion is being considered only as a way out of the present situation and that the government had not taken a position about it.

She advised the Tamil parties to get the support of the UNP [United National Party] as its support is vital for the adoption of the devolution proposals by parliament.

The five party group of EPDP, EPRLF, PLOTE, EROS and TELO had asked for a meeting with the UNP next week.

Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister Prof. G.L. Peiris was present.

Sri Lanka: Minister Reiterates Commitment To Establish Peace in North

BK3006135896 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Defense Minister General Anuruddha Ratwatte has reiterated the government's commitment to establish peace soon. Speaking at a ceremony at the Defense Ministry, he said that the war against the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is being prosecuted according to a specific plan. The ceremony had been organized to mark the handing over of more contributions to Defense Fund. Members of the Sanga [Buddhist clergy] who attended the ceremony asked the minister why the government was permitting Tamil political parties to work among the people of the liberated areas of the North. General Ratwatte said that any democratic government was bound to allow all political parties access to people throughout the country. He stressed, however, that none of the parties will be allowed to bear arms in the North. The minister said that providing for disabled servicemen and their families was the responsibility of the entire nation. The National Defense Fund has been set up to ensure that this obligation is fulfilled. Contributions worth over 750,000 rupees were received by the minister on behalf of the fund from members of the Sanga, various organizations and institutions, and individuals.

Sri Lanka: LTTE Guerrillas Ambush Army Patrol; 67 Dead

BK0107073796 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 1 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, July 1 (AFP) — Heavy hand-to- hand fighting raged in northeast Sri Lanka Monday as Tamil Tiger guerrillas wiped out an army patrol, killing 32 soldiers, defence sources said.

The army said it had killed at least 35 gunmen of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the fighting.

Dozens of LTTE fighters ambushed the army patrol with automatic weapons and grenades at Meegasgodella in Trincomalee district, the sources said.

"There was an intense close range battle that lasted for more than an hour," said a defence source in Trincomalee, 260 kilometres (160 miles) northeast of Colombo. "Troop reinforcements confirm at least 35 Tigers were also killed. "

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The army troops were from a volunteer unit and were engaged in a routine road clearing operation when they were surprised by the guerrillas, military officials said.

Artillery guns were used against guerrilla reinforcements inflicting heavy losses on the rebels, the military headquarters here said.

The latest attack was one of the worst against security forces this year. On March 24, Tiger rebels killed 40 soldiers in the adjoining district of Batticaloa.

Monday's ambush came barely a day after army chief Rohan Daluwatte claimed that security forces had flushed out several Tiger bases in the region after killing an estimated 25 rebels over the weekend.

The Tigers have vowed to step up their attacks in the north- eastern region after losing their main bastion of Jaffna in the north of the country to security forces.

Government forces wrested control over the entire peninsula of Jaffna last in May after a series of operations begun in October last year.

Tiger guerrillas are leading a protracted campaign for independence in the island's northern and eastern regions where the two million Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have died in bitter fighting since 1972.

Sri Lanka: Troops Overrun Major LTTE Base in Trincomalee

BK2806134596 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jun 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops overran a major Tiger base manned by some 200-odd Tiger cadres and captured a large quantity of food, arms, and ammunition in the jungle of Kumpurupiddi in the Trincomalee District on Wednesday [26 June]. The security sources said that this was part of an operation started last week to flush out all Tiger units that are operating in the jungles of the Trincomalee District.

The Tiger military and political wing cadres in the east obtained their ordinance from this base known as Peraru for over a long period. According to security sources, as the troops advanced on the base, its leader Swarnam and its cadres had fled leaving their supplies. Monitoring of Tiger messages had revealed that fleeing Tigers had suffered severe casualties when troops opened fire on them. The terrorists had carried away their dead and injured from the scene of the attack. The naval units and Air Force surveillance planes were on the lookout to prevent the Tigers fleeing by way of sea.

A group of terrorists fired at the fishermen off the Kudremalai Point in the Puttalam District on Wednesday. In a separate incident on Tuesday, STF [Special Task Force] troops recovered a parcel bomb near a transformer along Pottuvil-Panama Main Road, which was defused by the troops.

The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] is fast losing its grip on Kilinochchi and have lost the support of the public in the district. The armed terrorists stood by helplessly as thousands of refugees from Jaffna and permanent residents of Kilinochchi staged a massive anti-LTTE demonstration on Wednesday, crying out against LTTE repression. Anti-LTTE posters, with slogans such as "Prabhakaran Wants Money, Not Freedom," "Prabhakaran, Give Us Our Freedom" had been filled all over Kilinochchi town. This has been reported by a group of refugees from Kilinochchi who reached Vavuniya on Thursday.

When contacted by the national news agency LANKAPUVATH, the refugees claimed that LTTE morale was so low and the terrorists so weak that the LTTE would withdraw if the security forces moved in. They said they had left Kilinochchi without obtaining LTTE permission or paying customary LTTE visa fees but were free to leave without interference, as the back of the LTTE in these areas was broken. Some of these residents said that they were joining the rest of their families in the south, while others are now returning to their homes in Jaffna by sea through Trincomalee, where the government is operating a passenger ship service between Trincomalee and Jaffna.

A resident looked up at the heavens and invoked the blessings of God on President Chandrika Kumaratunga for being so caring in directing the authorities to immediately release hundreds of refugees who are stranded in camps in Vavuniya for nearly a month after their security checks were over. He said he has seen his daughter, who was now 22, after 14 long years. He said on the first day of the presidential directive 362 refugees were released by the authorities, when earlier the daily average was 25.

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